

Iraq diverts Tigris water

BAGHDAD (R) — Part of Iraq's Tigris River has been diverted through tunnels to start filling a huge earth dam near the northern city of Mosul as archaeologists work to uncover treasures in an area that will be flooded. Irrigation Minister Abdul Wahid Mahmud Abdullah, quoted by the English-language Baghdad Observer newspaper, said the dam, expected to be completed in 1986, would generate electricity equivalent to a quarter of Iraq's present energy output. The Observer said eight teams — from Britain, Japan and France — had started to excavate sites on the eastern bank of the Tigris, where there are about 190 old mounds and treasures dating back nearly 5,500 years. The dam, which will also be used to reclaim a wide area of land now irrigated only by rain water, is being built by the West German-Italian Mosul dam company at an expected eventual total cost of \$2 billion.

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Paris says no plans for Mitterrand to meet Arafat

AMMAN (J.T.) — The French government has denied that a meeting has been planned between French President Francois Mitterrand and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat during Mr. Mitterrand's scheduled visit to Jordan next month. A French External Affairs Ministry spokesman, commenting on an Associated Press report Friday that PLO officials were working with the French government on a planned Mitterrand-Arafat meeting, said in Paris: "There is no project of a meeting between President Mitterrand and the leader of the PLO, Yasser Arafat, on the occasion of the visit of the French head of state to Jordan from July 9-11."

3 U.S. airmen die in Sinai crash

TEL AVIV (R) — Three U.S. airmen serving with a multinational peacekeeping force in Sinai were killed when their helicopter crashed in the area during a routine maintenance flight, a spokesman for the force said Saturday. An investigation has been ordered to determine the cause of the crash Friday, which occurred about 15 kilometres north of Ras Natrun in the southern Sinai Desert, he added. The 10-nation, 3,200-strong force has been stationed in the Sinai to act as a buffer between Egypt and Israel since Israel withdrew its forces from the area under the Camp David accords in April 1982.

Fahd meets Numeiri

BAHRAIN (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and visiting Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri met in the Holy City of Mecca Friday night, the Saudi Press Agency reported. It quoted the Saudi leader as telling reporters after the meeting that they had discussed issues which would benefit Islam and the Islamic Nation, as well as bilateral relations.

Uruguayan leader held under arrest

MONTEVIDEO (R) — Naval officials Saturday boarded a vessel bringing Uruguayan opposition leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate home from 11 years in exile and held him under arrest, a Reuters correspondent on board the ship said. Julio Villaverde, reporting from the Argentine ship Ciudad de Mar del Plata, said the leader was confined to his cabin and only his family was being allowed to see him. Live radio reports from the ship said earlier the naval officials boarded from patrol boats off Montevideo harbour and ordered the captain to head for the fashionable resort of Punta del Este, four hours by sea from the capital. (Earlier story on page 8)

Berri hospitalised

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Shi'ite militia leader Nabih Berri was admitted to hospital Saturday with a bad case of influenza, sources in his Amal movement said. Mr. Berri, minister of state for the south in Lebanon's new government, was having tests and was not expected to stay in hospital long, the sources added.

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Iraq accuses Tehran of violating partial ceasefire Baghdad sets terms for acceptance of Iranian offer

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq Saturday made the acceptance of an Iranian offer to halt attacks on Gulf shipping contingent on the re-opening of Iraqi ports and accused Tehran of violating a four-day-old ceasefire covering civilian and residential areas in the two warring states.

Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassem was responding to Friday's statement by the influential speaker of Iran's Majlis (parliament), Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who said Iran would not fire one shot "if Iraq stopped the attacks."

Mr. Jassem, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said acceptance of United Nations Resolution 540, which calls for freedom of navigation in the Gulf, was the key to a ceasefire in its waters.

Iraq's attacks on shipping heading for Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal pose a threat to Tehran's oil lifeline. Iraq's own oil exports through the Gulf have cut off since the war started in September 1980 and its ports were closed. Mr. Jassem said the Iranian statement was unclear, adding "till now he (Rafsanjani) has said nothing new."

"If he means to prohibit Iraq from striking Iranian ships without giving full guarantee for Iraq's right to use its ports and waterways and its legitimate right to free navigation... then Iraq rejects that completely and will continue striking," he said.

Mr. Jassem said the U.N. resolution "guarantees the rights and interests of all parties" and should be adhered to.

"If Iran wishes to express a new attitude, its officials must define

precisely and with full clarity their attitude to the resolution," he added.

Iraq said last February it was imposing the sea blockade on Iran to prevent Tehran from using sea ports in the Gulf that are "the main resources financing its continued aggression against Iraq."

The four-month sea blockade has crippled at least 36 Iranian, Arab and foreign ships trying to approach Iranian ports, according to the Iraqi count.

Iraq responded to the siege by raiding four Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers in the Gulf. The escalation threatens the flow of oil shipments from the Gulf, through which the non-communist world imports about 20 per cent of its crude.

Iraq denies its planes have attacked ships, despite repeated accusations by Iraq and the Arab countries that support Iraq in its 45-month-old war with Iran.

Iraq reports shelling

Later Saturday, an Iraqi military spokesman told the INA that the border town of Sayed Saideh had been hit by 15 shells between 9.50 a.m. and 11.45 a.m. (0550 and 0745 GMT).

He said "Iraq will retaliate the same if the Iranians continue to violate the accord."

Saudi Arabia said Saturday that Tehran's acceptance of the agreement, which went into effect early Tuesday, was "a positive start worthy of encouragement."

A commentary on state-run Riyadh Radio said: "This will help create a good atmosphere for the currently active international efforts to stop the Iran-Iraq war altogether." (Kuwait welcomes accord, page 2)

Iran made no mention of any shelling incidents on civilian areas by either side in its daily war communiqué, although it reported heavy artillery exchanges on the southern front.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, meanwhile, sent a message to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar informing him of Baghdad's acceptance of measures he had taken concerning supervision of the agreement to halt attacks on towns.

The INA said Mr. Aziz had informed Mr. Perez de Cuellar of the violation of the agreement reported by the military spokesman Saturday, reiterating his request for a team to check such incidents.

Under the U.N. plan, teams consisting of one senior official from the U.N. secretariat and three military officers from the U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation will supervise the ceasefire.

High security in Baghdad

Reuters adds from Baghdad: Security checks were stepped sharply up on the streets of Baghdad Saturday and diplomats said they believed the authorities were searching for a group of infiltrators from Iran.

Armed security men were seen stopping cars on approach roads to the city and in several downtown areas, checking the identities of drivers.

The measures were a noticeable increase on the normal level of security in the Iraqi capital.

Diplomats said they had reports of an apparent bomb attack on a security police headquarters this week, but had no details of any casualties.

The Iraqi government has waged a ruthless underground war against suicidal guerrilla attacks and bombings by the fanatical Al Da'awa Al Islamiya (Islamic call) group.

Diplomats said the government's clampdown had been highly effective but the new security moves indicated a new guerrilla cell had been detected.

The diplomats said they believed the security forces were hunting for a group of infiltrators who have slipped into the country from Iran.

There has been no official statement on the security checks.

Self-confessed agents have testified on state television that they were recruited and trained in Iran for attacks on foreign diplomatic missions, government targets and offices of countries hated by Iran's radical rulers.

Diplomats believe most recruits to pro-Iranian guerrilla groups enter Iraq across the wilds of northern Kurdistan, where the presence of neither the Baghdad nor Tehran governments is strong and rival groups of Kurdish guerrillas roam.

After a spate of bombings in 1982 and 1983 guerrilla activity has abated, although the British Council building was bombed last March. There was only one injury in the blast and the wounded man was detained by the security forces, diplomats said.

Gemayel, Karami review Syrian role

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's two top leaders met Saturday to prepare for Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam's forthcoming visit aimed at reconciling feuding Lebanese ministers, government sources said.

The cabinet has been paralysed by deep divisions despite receiving a vote of confidence and special powers from parliament on Tuesday, and President Amin Gemayel called on Mr. Khaddam to help resolve the differences.

The sources said the thorniest issue, that of the reorganisation of the army, figured high in Saturday's talks between Mr. Gemayel and Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

The army, traditionally dominated by Maronite Christians, split largely along sectarian lines in February. Before the army is re-united, Muslim ministers want radical changes to control Maronite power, but the Maronites are resisting them.

After the meeting Saturday, Mr. Karami refused to specify when Mr. Khaddam would arrive. The Syrian official was originally expected before the weekend, but the press said Saturday his arrival was now anticipated Sunday or Monday.

Syria, which has an estimated

40,000 soldiers in north and east Lebanon, engineered Lebanon's shift away from reliance on the United States and made it clear that Mr. Karami was its choice for prime minister, before he was chosen on April 26.

The Syrian government newspaper Tishrin said in an editorial Saturday it was eager for the implementation of the government's programme which parliament approved, and it warned against any attempts to the contrary.

"Syria is anxious to support this government, and when the question concerns the people of Lebanon, there is no limit to Syria's sacrifices," the newspaper said.

"Syria will not permit security or political setbacks in Lebanon and will not allow the Zionists to commit more crimes against Lebanon in the interests of Israel. In this, Syria will use every means and will deploy all its resources to implement this national task," the paper added.

Mr. Karami's top priorities, shared by Syria, is to expel Israeli troops from South Lebanon.

The Israelis face the Syrians in southeast Lebanon, and another Syrian paper warned Saturday that Israel was reinforcing its troops there in preparation for an attack on Syrian forces.

5 Israelis wounded in Suicide explosion

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A suicide commando, driving a car laden with explosives, rammed into an Israeli armoured vehicle near the Zaharani oil refinery in South Lebanon Friday, killing himself and wounding five Israeli soldiers seriously.

Various news agencies quoted eyewitnesses as saying the attack was aimed at a convoy of three Israeli armoured vehicles and Israeli ambulances pulled out the five wounded soldiers from the wreck of one Israeli vehicle.

The explosion left a large crater in the road and blew the vehicle 20 metres away, they said.

They said Israeli troops summoned cranes to put it back on the road and move it to a nearby vehicle repair and maintenance depot.

At the depot, reporters saw a troop carrier badly crushed on the right side and Israeli mechanics at work repairing it.

After the attack, which spread fragments of the car 100 metres in all directions, troops in the patrol opened fire into the orchards and along the road, hitting a passing pick-up truck but missing its driver, the eyewitnesses said.

Reports telephoned by Sidon-based newsmen and Beirut Radio

said Israeli troops cordoned off the area of the blast and called in helicopters to fly out the wounded soldiers.

An Israeli army officer at the scene told reporters the attack was what he called a "Khmeini's" suicide operation, but there were no visible traces of any driver.

The officer confirmed that the troop carrier was damaged and that several soldiers were wounded.

Beirut Radio said the blast "ripped the Israeli armoured personnel carrier (APC) along with the car-bomb to shreds and seriously damaged another APC in the Israeli patrol."

The Israeli military command in Tel Aviv confirmed that five Israeli soldiers were wounded. But its communiqué referred to the car-bomb as a Lebanese vehicle that exploded "while passing" three Israeli armoured carriers, killing the car's driver.

Lebanese resistance forces attack Israeli parols almost daily, either with remote-controlled bombs planted by the side of the road or by ambushing them with rifles and grenades.

The last car bomb in South Lebanon exploded in the village of Deir 'Anoun An-Nahr near Tyre in April.

1 killed as Soweto blacks mark uprising anniversary

SOWETO, South Africa (Agencies) — A black man was killed Saturday in an explosion in a country town as blacks across South Africa commemorated the anniversary of a bloody uprising against the white minority government eight years ago in which 500 people died.

South African Television said the man died early Saturday evening when a blast rocked a court building in Bethal, 120 kilometres east of Johannesburg.

It gave no further details and it was unclear whether the incident was connected to the day of remembrance, which was marked by church services in a number of

black townships. Elsewhere, four policemen were slightly injured in the cape province town of Graaf-Reinet when they clashed with 60 stone-pelting youngsters. Twenty-seven people were arrested.

Police, who put on a show of strength in Johannesburg's black township of Soweto, clashed with about 200 youths as they left a service attended by some 3,000 people.

The crowd chanted and waved clenched fists at the police and some threw stones. Police used tear power to disperse them and four people were held for questioning.

An unusually heavy police presence — riot police with armoured personnel carriers and dog handlers stood guard at the main Soweto church — provoked protests from black leaders.

The crowd, part of about 2,000 people who attended a service at the Regina Mundi Cathedral, had gathered outside after a four-hour service.

A Reuters correspondent, taken with other journalists in an armoured vehicle, saw the youths gathered by the side of the church chanting slogans and waving clenched fists at police.

After about 10 minutes, during which a few stones were thrown at

the police, two police landrovers charged the crowd with tear-powder belching from revolving roof attachments.

The crowd immediately dispersed down a side street followed by the police vehicles.

Most of the rest of the crowd left the church to go home peacefully. The clash occurred 100 metres from Regina Mundi Cathedral, scene of violence on previous anniversaries of the 1976 riots that left several hundred dead. It was the first violence reported Saturday as thousands of blacks attended similar memorial services across South Africa.

Tunisia sentences former minister

TUNIS (R) — Fugitive former Interior Minister Driss Guiga was found guilty of high treason Saturday and sentenced by the high court to 10 years forced labour and five years in prison, to run concurrently. Mr. Guiga had been charged for offenses during the "bread riots" which swept Tunisia in January. He was accused of negligence, misleading President Habib Bourguiba about the seriousness of the riots and exploiting the violence to further his political career. The court also withdrew Mr. Guiga's civil and political rights and ordered his assets seized. Mr. Guiga, who was dismissed after the riots, is currently living in London and was tried in absentia. Former Director-General of Police Abdul Hamid Sekhiri, an associate of Mr. Guiga's who was present in the dock, was sentenced to five years in prison and loss of civil rights for complicity. The high court acquitted former Tunis police chief Ezzeddine Driss, who was facing the same charge as Mr. Sekhiri.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor with new graduates from the University of Jordan whom the King received Saturday (Petra photo)

King calls on new graduates to work for national progress

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday urged university graduates to put into practice what they had learnt at their educational institutions.

Addressing students who excelled in their studies at the University of Jordan, King Hussein said that the country will be proud of its citizens, especially university-educated people and will continue to progress and prosper if they employ their skill and learning in useful activities and work for the advancement of their society.

At the ceremony for honouring the students, which was held at the gardens of Al Naulwa Palace, Jordan University President Abdul Salam Al Majali delivered a speech paying tribute to the King who, he said, had been a source of inspiration for his countrymen seeking success and prosperity.

The University of Jordan has adopted a policy of offering distinguished students the chance of meeting leaders and responsible people of this country to promote

their capabilities, widen their scope of knowledge and enrich their experiences. Dr. Majali said.

King Hussein later shook hands with the graduates, presented them with prizes and wished them success.

The ceremony was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obdat, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Jassem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaki.

Egypt asks Iranian defectors to leave

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian authorities have asked eight Iranian defectors who landed in southern Egypt in a commandeered navy plane Friday to leave the country with their plane, a top government official said Saturday.

The official, who spoke on condition he not be named, told reporters that authorities were helping the Iranians, five military officers and three civilians, with contacts to find haven in another country.

As of evening Saturday, more than 24 hours after the defectors landed at the airport of Luxor, a city 720 kilometres south of Cairo, their Fokker-27 plane was still parked on the tarmac of an air force base adjoining the civilian airport.

The Iranians were in military custody at the base, according to Luxor airport traffic controllers.

"There is no intention to accept any request from them to stay in Egypt or to be granted political asylum," the top official said, implying that such a request had been made and rejected.

The Middle East News Agency Friday night denied the Iranians had sought political asylum.

The state-owned Cairo newspaper Al Gomhuria, in its early editions Saturday, quoted unnamed sources as saying the Iranians had requested asylum. But the newspaper backtracked in its final editions.

"None of the passengers on the plane requested asylum in Egypt but they said they opposed the regime of (Iranian leader Ayatollahi Khomeini)," Al Gomhuria said.

"The plan now is for the Iranians to leave with their plane after refuelling," the official said Saturday. "Any humanitarian assistance they request, such as food and water supplies, will be extended."

He did not specify when the defectors would depart.

Unconfirmed reports earlier said the plane's captain, Lieutenant-Colonel Hussain Ghaderman, tried to persuade the Swedish embassy in Cairo but failed because of bad lines.

Abd Rabbo predicts 'historic settlement' of PLO conflict

DAMASCUS (R) — A Palestinian commando leader said Saturday there would be soon be an "historic declaration" to end the split within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Yasser Abd Rabbo, deputy chief of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), told reporters here that inter-PLO reconciliation talks would resume in the next few days to endorse the "final phraseology of the political and organisational issues already discussed in Algiers and Aden."

"We are confident our next meeting will lead to an historic declaration that will open the way for a new phase in restoring PLO unity," he said.

Representatives of four commando groups known as the "democratic alliance" recently held talks in Algiers and Aden with the PLO's mainstream Fatah group after mediation by South Yemen and Algeria.

The PLO split began last year after Fatah rebels, supported by Syria and Libya, accused Yasser Arafat, who heads both Fatah and the PLO, of being too moderate in efforts to regain Arab territory now occupied by Israel.

There was no immediate comment from Fatah on Mr. Abd Rabbo's remarks.

Mr. Arafat's Fatah representative at the reconciliation talks in Aden earlier this week said that, despite mediation by South Yemen and Algeria, there had been no agreement on political or organisational matters.

But Mr. Abd Rabbo said Saturday the envisaged declaration would contain "advanced political and organisational bases" and safeguard the PLO's national flag, against any deviation as well as clear preconditions for setting up collective leadership for the PLO.

He said the next session of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, would elect the new collective leadership.

Mr. Arafat's opponents have been pressing for a collective leadership since they began their rebellion against the PLO chairman last year, eventually forcing him from his last stronghold in Tripoli, north Lebanon.

A rebellion against the government of President Jaafar Numeiri began in the south more than a year ago over economic, administrative and other grievances.

Mr. Numeiri has accused Ethiopia of harbouring and training the rebels, with the backing of Libya, Sudan's neighbour to the northwest.

Sudan reports rebel bid to smuggle fighters

CAIRO (AP) — Some 300 rebels were arrested and an undetermined number died as Sudanese troops foiled an attempt by south Sudan insurgents to smuggle 5,000 recruits into neighbouring Ethiopia for training, Sudanese military officials said Saturday.

In a dispatch from the Sudanese capital Khartoum, Egypt's Middle East News Agency quoted an unidentified official of Sudan's military command as saying 300 recruits had been arrested and an unspecified number drowned during the attempt, which took place in the southern province of Upper Nile.

The reference to drowning appeared to indicate that the attempt to cross the border was made by river boat, but no mention was made of when the incident took

Kuwait welcomes call for halt to tanker attacks

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has welcomed a call by Iran for an end to attacks on shipping in the Gulf by both Iran and Iraq, the daily Al Ra'i Al Am said Saturday.

The newspaper quoted a senior Kuwaiti official, who did not name, as saying: "We hope this statement will herald negotiations to end the Iran-Iraq war."

The official was commenting on a statement Friday by Mr. Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian Parliament, who told a Friday prayers meeting: "We declare to the United Nations that if the Iraqis do not strike in the Gulf, we will not fire even one bullet."

The Kuwaiti official added that a halt to attacks on oil tankers would "greatly contribute towards ending the war, particularly during these critical circumstances where the big powers look forward to intervening on the pretext of maintaining the oil flow."

There has been no reaction yet

from Iraq to Mr. Rafsanjani's statement, which followed an agreement between Iran and Iraq to halt attacks on population centres. But an Iraqi Air Force general told journalists Friday that Iraq's blockade of Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal was part of "a broader plan which may develop into a more serious action if the enemy continued its aggressive war against Iraq and its threats against other Arab states in the Gulf."

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Friday that two teams of military observers, each with a civilian, would fly in as soon as asked by Tehran and Baghdad.

Iran and Iraq halted the civilian killing last Tuesday morning after the move was proposed by Mr. Perez de Cuellar.

Nationalities of the observers are not known, but Austria, with more than 500 military monitors already based in Lebanon, in Cyprus and on the Israeli-Syrian truce line in the Golan Heights, has said it would be willing to take part.

Iraq has said Kharg is a legitimate military target in the 45-month-old Gulf war because of the contribution of oil revenue to the Iranian Armed Forces.

About 40 merchant ships have been hit in air attacks by both Iran and Iraq this year. Iran says attacks on ships using ports in Gulf Arab states, which generally support Baghdad in the war, are in retaliation for Iraqi raids on tankers using Kharg.

Baghdad's war communiques Friday night, for the fourth night running, made no reference to civilian casualties.

Iran said seven civilians were hurt in long-range Iraqi shelling of the Abadan port area, but its war bulletin did not clarify whether this would be held as a breach of the ceasefire accord.



EXPLOSION: The facade of a red-brick building collapsed from the impact of the explosion in a munitions factory outside Cairo Thursday morning. The building was badly damaged and the blast was heard in several parts of Cairo (AP wirephoto)

Arens warns Syria against attack

TEL AVIV (AP) — Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Saturday that Syria may start a war with Israel but warned Damascus that Syria's army was not capable of winning such a confrontation.

Armed forces radio quoted Mr. Arens in a recorded interview as saying: "There is a possibility that internal tensions inside Syria will break out in a war against Israel."

The warning followed a Syrian newspaper report claiming that Israel was moving troops and armour into south eastern Lebanon and planned a pre-emptive strike against Syrian forces.

Concern about a new round of tensions between the two nations arose after a two-hour fire fight erupted in the Bekaa Valley Thursday when Syrian troops shot at an Israeli patrol near Kfar Kook, six kilometres from the Syria-Lebanon border.

Israeli officials and analysts have in recent months made frequent references to a reported power struggle inside Syria, while generally refraining from assessing its military significance.

The radio also quoted Mr. Arens as saying Israel did not want war but warning Syrian President Hafez Al Assad that "the Syrian army is not capable today of withstanding a war against the Israeli army and we must make this clear to Damascus."

An army spokesman earlier denied reports that Israel and Syria were building up troops and armour in the Bekaa where the two armies are only a few hundred yards apart in some locations.

"The proximity of our forces certainly does pose a stabilising factor, and it could result in a situation where complete control could be lost," Mr. Arens also said

in the interview conducted in Jerusalem.

He said the Syrian army had "no chance in my opinion of reaching parity with us... (but) we also have the challenge of persuading the people in Damascus" of this.

Lebanon's Falangist-run radios on Friday said Syria had placed its 30,000 troops in Bekaa Valley on maximum alert and was moving additional Soviet-made T72 tanks and an armoured brigade into the area.

Also on Saturday the Syrian government newspaper Al Thawra said Israel was moving additional troops and armour into south east Lebanon.

But dispatches from Bekaa-based Lebanese reporters indicated no war-like preparations being made by either side.

Morocco, Algeria play down border clash

RABAT (R) — Morocco and Algeria seemed determined Saturday not to dramatise a border clash which took place Friday, Western diplomats said.

The diplomats noted that Algeria did not accuse Morocco of aggression or provocation in a factual report of the clash and Morocco called it "a small skirmish".

Despite the tension between the two countries over the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara, where Algeria backs Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence, they have carefully avoided direct confrontation since 1976.

The Algerian Defence Ministry said in a statement that two Moroccan soldiers were killed, two wounded and 31 captured in a brief clash Friday morning near Bechar, about 800 kilometres north of the Western Sahara.

The Moroccan Information Ministry's statement said a "small skirmish" occurred when a Moroccan patrol, bringing supplies and relief to forces posted at Hassi Lebrabra, followed a wrong track which took them into Algerian territory.

The two countries fought a brief "sand war" over their disputed border in October 1963, one year after Algerian independence from France.

They signed a treaty of friendship and co-operation in 1969 and three years later reached agreement on the border. But the accord has still not been ratified by the Moroccan Parliament.

The only direct clash between the two countries over the Western Sahara took place at Amgala, near the Mauritanian border, at the beginning of the conflict in 1976.

According to Moroccan officials, 144 Algerian troops were captured. They are still held by Morocco and their release was not discussed when King Hassan and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid met on the border in February last year to attempt to clear the air between them.

The attempt at rapprochement got nowhere and the two countries are now involved in a tough diplomatic battle over the Western Sahara issue which, along with Chad, has split the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Al Ahrar to publish international edition

CAIRO (R) — Al Ahrar, Egypt's oldest newspaper, will publish its first international edition in London next Monday, Board Chairman Ibrahim Nafel said Saturday.

The newspaper, first published in Alexandria in 1876 when Egypt was still part of the Ottoman Empire, is known for its conservative editorial policy.

It won a reputation as a highly authoritative journal under Vohammad Heikal, a confidant of the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser, who became its editor in the

early 1960s. Mr. Nafel, who is also the present editor, told Reuters Al Ahrar plans to publish a separate edition in the U.S. and was making preparations for another edition for the Gulf.

Some four million Egyptians work abroad, mostly in the Gulf and Libya, and there are about one million emigrants, mostly living in the United States, Canada and Australia.

The international edition, has so far cost Al Ahrar \$1.2 million.

Peres predicts early Lebanon pullout

BONN (R) — Israeli Labour opposition Leader Shimon Peres was quoted Saturday as saying Israeli troops could be withdrawn from Lebanon in a couple of months if he were voted prime minister in elections this summer.

Mr. Peres told the West German newspaper Bild Am Sonntag in an interview released ahead of publication Sunday that defences should be withdrawn to northern Israel, leaving an "early warning

system in southern Lebanon".

"We will change the nature of defence in Lebanon. Instead of a rigid defence north of the Israeli border there should be a flexible, mobile defence from the Israeli border," he said.

"If the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) terrorists again form a state within a state, the Israeli army will cross the border and stop this. But the base will

be Israel, not Lebanon. A troop withdrawal can take just a couple of months."

Israeli forces invaded Lebanon in June 1982, striking against PLO bases used to stage attacks against northern Israel.

Nearly 600 Israeli troops have been killed since fighting began and the invasion force has come under frequent commando attacks in South Lebanon.

Congress hears views on free trade with Israel

WASHINGTON (USA) — Robert Herzstein, a former U.S. under-secretary of commerce for international trade, said June 14 that he favours a free trade area with Israel.

The trade area would create only minimal costs or risks to domestic sectors of the American economy, Mr. Herzstein said in testimony before the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade. "If it appears necessary, the U.S. trade representatives could address the concerns of specific U.S. industries which may have genuine problems of vulnerability resulting from the elimination of duties," he said this could be done by placing a specialised safeguard mechanism in the agreement itself.

"The establishment of a free trade area between the United States and Israel would be a logical and natural next step in the development of economic relations between the two countries," Mr. Herzstein pointed out. "The free trade area would not set an unfavourable precedent. It would provide a stimulus for the development of a healthy international trading system based on the principles of free markets and comparative advantages."

However, two U.S. lawmakers told the subcommittee that any United States free trade area agr-

reement with Israel should exclude bromine products.

Congressman Beryl Anthony Jr. and Senator David Pryor, both from Arkansas, told members of the subcommittee that under such a proposal, the anticipated rise in Israeli imports to the United States would be "devastating" to the state of Arkansas.

According to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, a free trade area requires that the duties and other restrictions of commerce be eliminated on substantially all the trade between two countries.

Currently, trade between the U.S. and Israel is only partially free of impediments. While only 10 percent of Israeli exports to the U.S. are subject to U.S. duties, 40 to 45 percent of U.S. exports to Israel are subject to tariffs averaging 10.5 percent. These tariffs vary for different goods.

Using data obtained from the bromine industry, Mr. Anthony said that an additional 15 percent of the domestic market would be lost if bromine from Israel were permitted to enter the United States duty free. "The continued development of our area's natural resources is essential to south Arkansas' economic well-being," Sen. Anderson concluded. "Reduced sales will reduce employment."

Senator Pryor added that like

members of the subcommittee, he supported efforts to reduce trade barriers.

Also testifying in support of the proposal was Dr. Edward L. Hudgins, a policy analyst of the Heritage Foundation who told the subcommittee that such a policy "would result in economic advantages for the United States and Israel, and would create an important precedent which could further the cause of international free trade." "Rather than competing in a self-destructive race to erect more trade barriers against each other, countries under the influence and dynamics of a free trade area might compete in a race towards more freedom," he said.

Panels representing various United States jewelry firms and a representative of Heritage International Bank, the only American bank with an office in Israel, testified in favour of the free trade area. "It is our considered opinion that this proposal should be approved and the free trade area between our two countries established without delay," said Donald E. Wolfe, chairman of the board for Heritage International Bank.

David Sade, executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans, testified against the proposal, saying that it would help Israel at the expense of domestic American industries.

Israeli election campaign starts with Labour in lead

By David Rogers

Reuter

TEL AVIV — The chants of "Begin, Begin" rang out again this week as campaigning got under way for Israel's July 23 general election.

But for the first time in Israel's history Menachem Begin was not standing.

The concern among Likud Bloc supporters calling his name was whether their alliance could top the polls without the leader who dominated rightwing politics for 34 years.

In 1981, Likud went into the campaign trailing far behind the opposition Labour Party in opinion polls. Its recovery then was widely credited to the dramatic electioneering of Mr. Begin, who resigned the premiership last autumn.

Apparently grief-struck by his wife's death, he has since lived in seclusion and has turned down appeals to enter the election fray.

Likud, now led by the low-key Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, again starts the campaign behind

Labour. Shamir, lacking Begin's charisma and oratory, says it has been hard to fill his shoes.

He also has less time to generate a Likud comeback — the highly-charged 1981 campaign lasted three months.

Mr. Shamir has not been helped by pre-election power struggles inside his Herut (freedom) Party. He narrowly defeated a leadership challenge from former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon.

Labour, by contrast, has presented a united front. Papery over bitter personal and ideological feuds, its senior politicians have rallied behind the leadership of Shimon Peres.

The latest opinion poll reported the gap between the two main groups had narrowed slightly. It found voters would give Labour 52 seats in the 120-member Knesset (parliament) and Likud 39.

Politicians and Israeli analysts say that margin is certain to narrow and are predicting a close race.

Neither side has fully revealed its election strategy. From the early speeches it appears Labour

will concentrate on economic issues, heaping blame on Likud for Israel's record 40 per cent-plus inflation and wages erosion.

Through photographs and film footage, it hopes to stir memories of a time when Israel's future seemed more promising and less in crisis — before, it will suggest, Likud ended 29 years of Labour rule in 1977.

The more nationalistic Likud, which launched the Lebanon war two years ago, has so far made defence a theme. It is suggesting Israelis are now more secure due, especially, to Likud-nurtured defence ties with the United States.

With the army still bogged down in Lebanon, the war is perceived to have been a tragic mistake by many Israelis. But Likud organisers contend it will not seriously damage their traditional vote.

Likud, which draws much of its support from poorer, less privileged Sephardim (Oriental Jews), boasts it has helped close the ethnic gap with the Ashkenazi (European Jews).

No longer do people talk about

"the other Israel," Mr. Shamir said to a recent speech clearly tailored for a Sephardi audience.

However, it would need a political earthquake for either Likud or Labour to gain an outright victory.

The proportional representation system, designed by Israel's founding fathers to protect minority interests, has always left the balance of power with small parties.

This time 26 parties have entered the contest. In Israel's fragmented political arena, about a third of them can expect to garner enough votes to win seats.

There are no constituencies in Israel. Instead voters choose between party lists. With the exception of Herut, which picked its candidates at an open congress, the states have been drawn up after weeks of secretive, backroom negotiations and contain few new faces.

The system means the candidates in high spots on the major lists are already assured of a seat in the 12th Knesset. "I could now name 95 of the 120 members, this

battle is about the other 25," said a Labour Party organiser.

There is increased pressure on Labour because Likud has more potential coalition partners among the small parties.

Likud had 46 seats in the old parliament compared to Labour's 50 but governed with the help of the National Religious Party (NRP), the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Israel faction and the extreme Nationalist Tehiya Party.

Agudat Israel and Tehiya would almost certainly refuse to serve in a Labour cabinet.

With the exception of the Communists, who traditionally win a few seats from Israel's 650,000 Arab citizens, other minor parties would listen to coalition offers from either Likud or Labour.

The performance of the New Yahad (together) Movement, led by former Defence Minister Ezer Weizman, may be a key factor.

Mr. Weizman, a popular figure who played a significant role in the Camp David peace process with Egypt, has returned to politics after a four-year absence.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
MAIN CHANNEL	630, 720, 1413 KHz
15:00 Koran	06:00 Newsday 06:30 The World of
15:30 Children Programme	Singing 06:45 Financial Review 06:55
15:45 Religious Programme	Reflections 07:00 World News 07:24
16:00 Children Programme	Hours: News Summary 07:30 Good
16:30 Children Programme	Newsday 07:45 Letter from America 08:00
16:45 Islamic Programme	Newsday 08:30 Jazz for the Asking
17:00 Ramadan Puzzle	09:00 World News 09:19 24 Hours:
17:30 Arabic Series	News Summary 09:15 From Our Own
17:45 Arabic Series	Correspondent 09:30 Bygones at Large
18:00 Arabic Series	09:50 Recording of the Week 10:00
18:15 Arabic Series	World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15
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18:45 Arabic Series	11:00 British Press Review 11:15 Sci-
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19:45 Arabic Series	News 13:18 World Phone In 13:40
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Mu'ta admissions procedure approved

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the regulations for student admission at Mu'ta University. The regulations, approved by the cabinet on May 30, defined the conditions for admission to B.A. degrees.

Jordan, Iraq oil accord endorsed

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has approved a cabinet decision to endorse the agreement between Jordan and Iraq to export Iraqi crude oil to Jordan. The agreement was reached during a visit paid by Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani to Iraq in April.

Pensions law receives Royal Decree

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving four new amendments to the civil retirement law. The four new laws were endorsed by the cabinet after they had been approved by the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament. The amendments deal with issues related to civil and military pensions and also the salaries of ministers and Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament members after they have retired.

Badran honours top students

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran presented prizes to those graduates excelling in their courses this year in a ceremony held Saturday at the university. Dr. Badran made a speech at the ceremony in which he expressed the university's appreciation for their endeavours and urged them to work hard in the service of their country.

Cabinet cancels public works protocol

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has agreed to cancel a protocol between the Jordanian government and the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) which covers the setting up of a construction and public works committee in Amman. The decision was made on the recommendations of Minister of Labour Tayseer Abdul Jabbar in implementation of an Arab labour conference resolution, held in Baghdad in March.

U.S. scholars arrive for Arabic course

IRBID (Petra) — Fifty students from the universities of Virginia and John Hopkins in the U.S. have joined an Arabic teaching programme for non-native speakers of Arabic which is being held at the language centre at Yarmouk University. The centre has prepared a two-month special programme, during which students will take lessons on the teaching of Arabic. The programme comes in the framework of agreements signed between Yarmouk University and a number of foreign universities to exchange students.

Second round of Tawjihi exams starts on E.Bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director-General of the Ministry of Education's Amman Region Farouk Badran Saturday visited the Madaba district and inspected schools where the Tawjihi examinations were in progress.

At least 1,439 students in the Madaba district are taking the exams in 16 different centres, according to the ministry.

Nearly 47,785 male and female students on the East Bank Saturday started their second round of Tawjihi examinations which are expected to last eight days.

They are sitting in 582 examination centres distributed around the country, of which Amman has 334.

Mr. Badran later toured a number of examination centres in the city of Amman where nearly 26,644 students are sitting in the second session.

Other officials from the Ministry of Education toured examination centres in Amman and other regions.

The marking of the examination papers starts right after the exams but the results will not be known before the end of July.



TOURNAMENT OPENING: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Friday waves to the crowd after officially inaugurating a pan Arab soccer tournament at Al Hussein Youth City stadium. In the opening match, Al Wihdat of Amman were beaten 2-0 by the Iraqi Aviation Club (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Air carrier talks held with Tunisia

TUNIS (Petra) — "Co-operation between Jordan and Tunisia in the field of air transport was discussed by Jordan's ambassador in Tunisia Nabih Al Nimer and Tunisian Minister of Transport and Communications Ibrahim Al Khawaja.

They looked into the prospect of increased co-ordination between national airlines.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Nimer said that Mr. Khawaja has promised an immediate and serious study of a proposal submitted by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline.

Two die after quarrel over business matters

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two people were killed Friday as a result of a dispute over business matters. A report in Al Dustour daily Arabic newspaper Saturday said that a 24-year-old Jordanian national identified by the police only as Hisham killed himself after killing a 29-year-old Egyptian national who was named as Salameh.

The report said that Hisham had opened a small restaurant in Zarqa and employed Salameh to work for him but after a while they had to close down in view of the losses sustained.

The two were visiting a friend in Jebel Amman Second Circle Friday when a quarrel occurred between them prompting Hisham to shoot Salameh, killing him instantly.

Hisham ran away and a number of local inhabitants set off in pursuit in the hope of arresting him. But, the report said, Hisham did not give them a chance to do so because he pointed the gun at his chest and fired dropping dead in a pool of blood, not far away from the Islamic college.

Both bodies were taken to the University of Jordan Hospital for an autopsy and the police are holding an investigation.

Writers group holds heated election

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The elections of the Jordanian Writers' Association ended Thursday and resulted in the election of Khalil Sawahiri as president of the association here at the Professional Association's Complex.

Mr. Sawahiri, a journalist, received 123 votes out of the 199 votes cast. Mr. Salem Al Nahas won the position of vice-president while Messrs. Ibrahim Al Absi, Ahmad Musleh, Ibrahim Khalil, Hussein Juma'a, Mufeed Nahleh, Hashem Yaghi, Fakhri Kavar, Bader Abdul Haq and Mo'ness Al Razzaz were elected as members of the board.

In the heated atmosphere of the elections, the balloting revealed two unexpected events: Firstly the defeat of the incumbent president, Dr. Hashem Yaghi, who came second in the ballot receiving 102 votes. He then withdrew from the process, refusing to serve as vice-president.

Second, the fact that the winners did not come from one bloc as anticipated.

Dr. Yaghi announced his candidacy for the elections as part of the "culture and creation" list.

In a meeting held later by the winners of the elections, the positions of responsibility at the association were distributed as follows: Ibrahim Al Absi as secretary, Hussein Juma'a as head of culture, information and publications, Ahmad Musleh as head of internal affairs, Mufeed Nahleh as head of exterior affairs, Ibrahim Khalil as treasurer and Bader Abdul Haq, Mo'ness Al Razzaz, Fakhri Kavar and Amina Al Adwan as members without portfolio.

Those who did not win places during Thursday's elections were Issam Al Tal, Ilias Farkouh, Jamal Abu Hamdan, Adnan Mdeinat, Ahmad Madi, Abdullah Radwan, Ahmad Odeh, Fakhri Saleh, Hazem Mbaiden and Issa Jarajreh.

Dr. Yaghi, also resigned as president for the last few days of his term of office and a temporary committee was elected to take over.

Tenth conference

Earlier in the day, the association held its 10th conference presided over by Dr. Yaghi and a representative of the Ministry of Culture and Youth, Mr. Khaled Al Hindawi.

The conference was the scene of a heated debate on issues like the new law for membership, cultural agreements and other proposals.

There were six journalists among the election winners: Bader Abdul Haq, Ibrahim Al Absi, Fakhri Kavar, Khalil Sawahiri, Ahmad Musleh and Ibrahim Khalil.

Supervising the elections was a committee consisting of Sheikh Abdulhamid Al Sayeh, Abdul Raheem Omar and Jameel Barakat.

'Cereal crops down, grave fodder shortage' Worst drought since 1947, says co-op. body director

AMMAN (J.T.) — The present season of drought in Jordan is the worst the country has had in 37 years and its consequences will be badly felt by farmers and stock breeders, according to Mr. Hassan Nabulsi, director-general of the Jordan Co-operative Organisation (JCO).

He said in a statement published by the local press Saturday that all estimates indicate that Jordan's production of wheat this year will only be nearly 10,000 tonnes, falling far short of the 400,000 tonnes which Jordanians normally consume every year.

Mr. Nabulsi, who is also a member of the drought committee, said that the country's production of barley is negligible despite its need of at least 160,000 tonnes annually, which now will have to be imported.

Barley and bran are subsidised by the government and the cost of

the subsidy will be JD 3 million this year as a result of the situation, Mr. Nabulsi said.

Animal wealth

Jordan's animal wealth, he said, which is worth JD 70 million, stands to be reduced because the sheep and goats in the country, which number 700,000, urgently need fodder which will have to be supplied through imports.

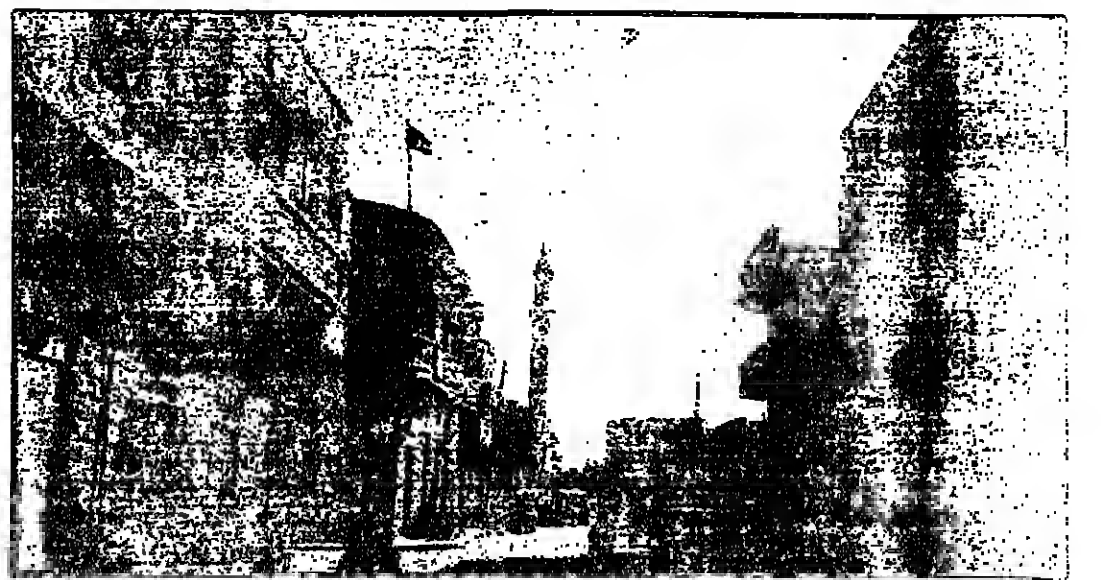
If the necessary amount is not forthcoming, then livestock farmers are likely to slaughter their herds, observers said.

As a result of the drought this year, he said, the JCO stores of fodder have been depleted by 12,000 tonnes.

Mr. Nabulsi complained that some merchants buy subsidised bran and barley from farmers who in turn obtain it from the government at reduced prices and then sell it for higher prices to other farmers.

A tonne of subsidised bran costs JD 35 while barley costs JD 55, but these are sold in the process for JD 50 and JD 80 respectively, Mr. Nabulsi said.

At present, he added, the Ministry of Agriculture, in co-operation with other departments, is counting the number of sheep and goats so that subsidies and other aid to farmers can be better regulated and the manipulation stopped.



The north Jordanian town of Ramtha which is currently facing water supply problems in its western sector (J.T. file photo)

West Ramtha struck by water crisis

RAMTHA (J.T.) — The Western part of the border town of Ramtha is suffering from an acute water crisis in contrast to the eastern part of the city which is receiving sufficient quantities of drinking water, according to Ramtha Mayor Mohammad Al Bashabshe.

He said in an interview with Al Ra'i daily Arabic newspaper that the city receives between 2,000 and 2,200 cubic metres of water per day, and this is far from sufficient for the inhabitants.

The western parts of the city do not receive enough water because drinking water is still being pumped through a narrow, old pipeline which does not allow a sufficient

volume of water to get through, and the citizens there continue to buy water in water tankers, Mr. Bashabshe said.

However, he added, the Water Authority in the city is doing its best to solve the crisis.

The mayor said that a feasibility study for the installation of new sewers has now been completed and a special team is involved in preparing the designs and plans to build the sewers.

Also, a 150 dunum plot of land has been selected on which to build a wastewater treatment plant, and a tender for the whole project is expected early next year, Mr. Bashabshe pointed out.

Lorry park

Speaking about the municipality's projects that have been completed, the mayor said that a parking area for lorries, which are numerous in Ramtha, has greatly facilitated the traffic flow in the streets where the lorries used to park, and saved the roads from a lot of damage.

The municipality has completed feasibility studies and designs to establish a football field and has asphalted several roads and streets.

It has also built 20 culverts to help drain away rain water and installed more than 400 mercury lamps in the streets to improve lighting at night, the mayor added.

Entrance fees, information boards to cap changes at Petra and Jerash

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities will be introducing entrance fees to Petra and Jerash in the next few weeks as a part of the second and final stage of the Petra-Jerash project.

According to Mr. Youssef Alami, director of the Petra-Jerash project, the building and restoration work at both sites has been completed according to the project plans and the ministry will introduce entrance fees, erect information signs and add the finishing touches to both sites this month.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Alami explained that the various projects at each site were financed through a joint Jordanian government and World Bank backed scheme costing \$12 million, half of which came in the form of a loan from the World Bank, and that the entrance fees will contribute towards part of the loan repayment.

Outlining the project, Mr. Alami said that a World Bank delegation visited Jordan in 1975 were very interested in the Petra and Jerash sites and suggested their promotion as both tourist and antiquity sites.

The following year a World Bank mission arrived to study the sites for development, including the restoration of antiquities and promotion of tourism through improved facilities, which resulted in an agreement signed in 1977.

Mr. Alami went on to say that on the completion of the project, the real expenditure had risen to about \$17 million due to inflation and construction costs and that the balance was paid by the Jordanian government.

Petra's unique features

Petra was chosen for the project because of its unique features, international renown and potential for development as a "resort" for overnight or longer stays, said Mr. Alami, and it received about 70

per cent of the total Petra-Jerash project budget allocation.

The Petra project comprised restoration, the building of a quality hotel and restaurant and the rehabilitation of the bedouin.

Describing the Petra project, Mr. Alami said that restoration work comprised cleaning and maintenance work to facilitate the easy passage of visitors as well as excavation and rebuilding.

The clearing of rubble and rocks from various tombs, excavation and restoration of the Court Tombs and the clearing of pathways has opened up more areas for tourists, said Mr. Alami, and, in addition, there has been a project to rebuild the Qasr El Bint and maintenance of tomb facades.

Also, a new research centre has been built inside the ancient city to be used by the Department of Antiquities and archaeologists for on-site studies using the laboratory and workshop facilities.

The centre, which opened in September last year, was constructed using Petra sand-stone to

blend in with the surroundings, said Mr. Alami, and will serve as a small local museum and information centre where seminars, lectures and film shows can be held for scholars and tourists alike.

Refreshment facilities

The centre also comprises a restaurant providing lunches and snacks for visitors operated by the Petra Forum Hotel.

Mr. Alami explained that there was a need for tourist facilities within Petra as visitors spend several hours inside the city and require amenities and refreshments.

The Petra programme also included the construction of the Petra Forum Hotel to provide comfortable, high quality accommodation for longer visits with full communications facilities and a swimming pool.

This hotel, together with the government resthouse and a camping area provides a range of facilities and types of accommodation for all categories of visitor to Petra, said Mr. Alami.

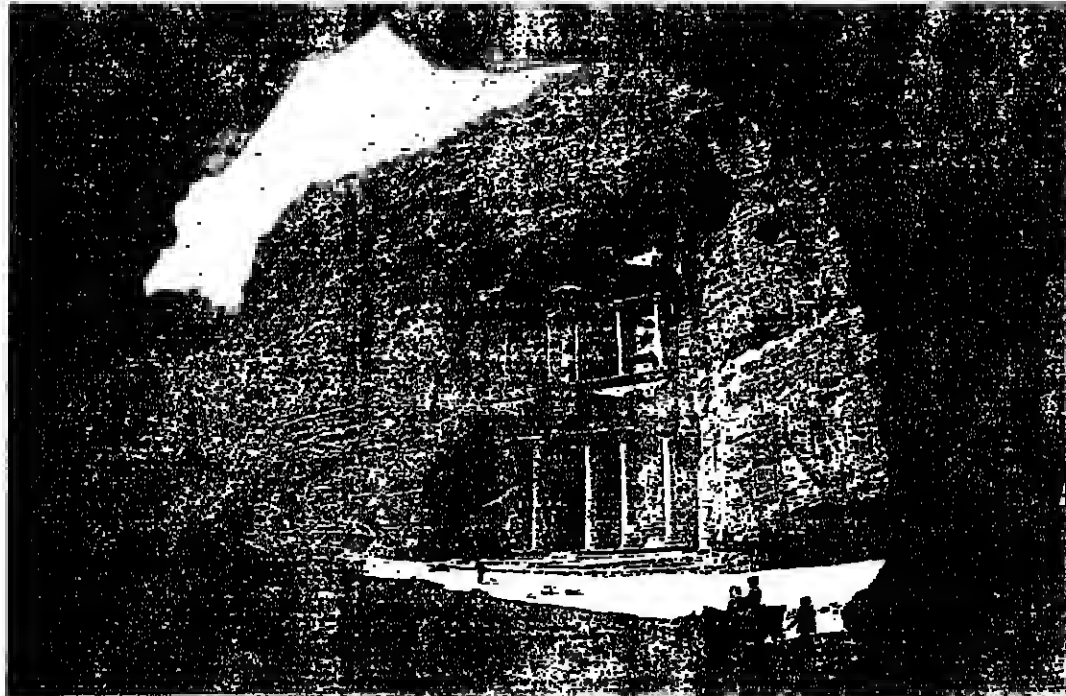
Both the resthouse and the hotel could be expanded depending on future needs, continued Mr. Alami, but the present facilities are expected to be adequate until 1985 according to statistics.

Mr. Alami said that the new hotel had encouraged domestic tourism with many Jordanians spending their weekends there for "short breaks" and that this had been a welcome spinoff from the project.

"Petra is not just the Siq and Treasury areas; there are many other fascinating places to visit and explore such as Beidab," said Mr. Alami, "and we hope that the improved facilities will encourage both Jordanians and foreigners to spend more time exploring the surrounding areas."

Bedouin re-housing

Regarding the re-housing of the



The Treasury, one of the main attractions at the rose red Nabatean city of Petra (Photo by Mansour Mnuasher)

Bedouin tribe, who have inhabited the caves of Petra for generations. Mr. Alami said that about 500 members of the tribe will be moved to a new housing area two kilometres outside the city within one month.

Mr. Alami explained that the demands of the tribe for electricity, running water, schools and medical facilities could not be met while they were inside Petra and this factor together with the need to preserve the antiquities and to keep the site clean, had necessitated the decision to move the tribe.

Mr. Alami said that the people had mixed feelings about the re-housing project, many of the younger families are proud to be receiving new houses with amenities but the older people are reluctant to leave their cave homes.

Mr. Alami said that several of the older people will probably be allowed to remain within the city

to act as guards on the antiquities, but all the children and their families will be moved out.

The 100 new houses, built by the Housing Corporation, are constructed of red brick to blend with the surrounding rocks and consist of two rooms, a kitchen, storeroom and a lavatory; all have sanitation and running water and electricity will be provided before the end of the year he said. A school and a clinic are also planned, added Mr. Alami.

Jerash

The Jerash site was selected for the programme because of its antiquities and proximity to Amman for day trips, said Mr. Alami, and the project involved the restoration and preservation of the ruins, the building of a new resthouse and the setting up of a "sound and light" programme. Much of the restoration work

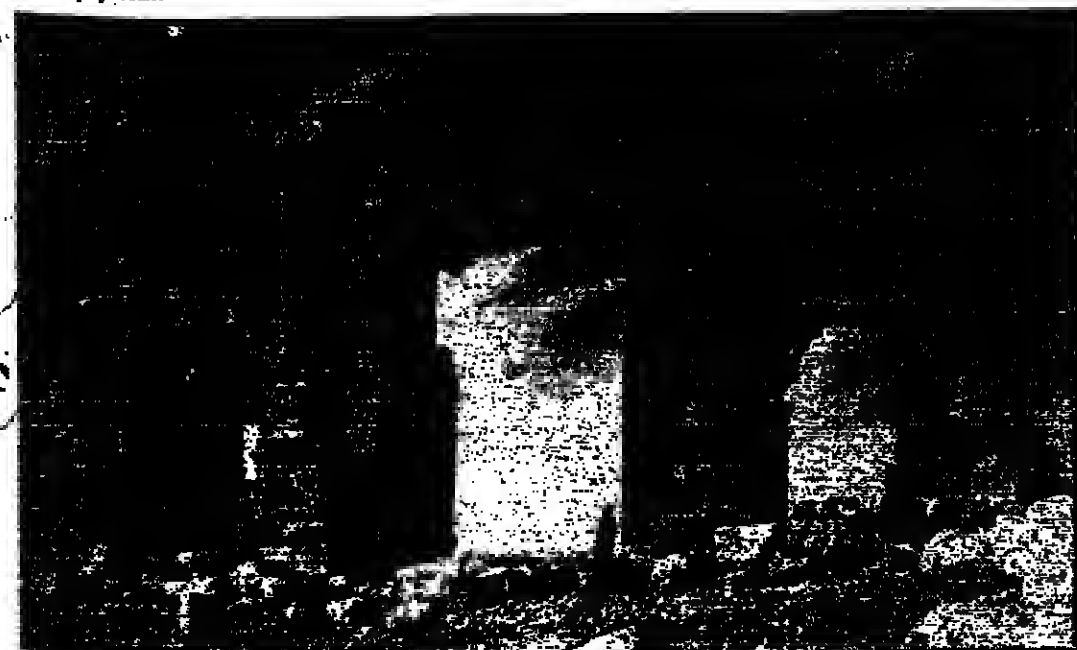
on the temples of Zeus and Anem, the colonnades, the main streets, the Nymphaeum, the churches and also the mosaics have been completed and are now being visited, Mr. Alami said.

The Ministry of Tourism is now working on tours of Jerash. Routes have been drawn up explaining the structures and sights of the city to be published in brochure form, thus enabling visitors to see everything explained Mr. Alami.

Sound, light show

In addition, a "sound and light" programme describing the history of Jerash will open shortly according to Mr. Alami.

The 45 minute show will be shown at three locations in Jerash. Visitors will be given an introduction to the city at the old resthouse before moving to the forum area where the bustling atmosphere of the market place



The Victory Arch which commands the approach to the Roman city of Jerash, and soon to be rivalled by toll entrance (J.T. file photo)

A layman's reflection on parliament's first term

THE RECENT by-elections and the first term of our restored parliament are now history. The experience proved to be both exciting and enriching.

It was also troublesome. I left me with a set of questions that I as a layman lacking any considerable knowledge of the parliamentary process, feel are still unanswered in my mind.

I did not understand why the term was so short. I realise it ran its full, ordinary course of four months, but then that first term was extraordinary in itself. The last member to be elected to parliament was sworn-in only one month before the term was over. Much of the parliament's efforts were directed at filling its vacant seats that little time was left for other matters.

I know I can't expect much at once, and that this is all necessary to lay the groundwork for the parliament to function properly. I just felt that all this build-up, this excitement of having a parliament was cut short.

Maybe some legal expert can explain to me why we all have to wait all-year long, while parliament operates in four months spurts, especially when there are so many important matters to attend to.

Really, I am being serious. I know this practice is not unique to Jordan, but I just don't understand why parliament cannot be a continuous, all-year-round process.

Jumping to another matter, everyone is boasting how this time the government was neutral in the recent by-elections. This is all very nice. It is very reassuring to know that the people can choose their representatives freely.

But does all this emphasis on official neutrality imply that the state may have been less than neutral in previous elections? Or is it just normal for the government to feel it has to assure its citizens that it is being neutral? And if the government may have been partial in earlier elections, does not that have serious implications, not the least of which is this present parliament's composition?

Am I asking questions that should not be addressed? Or do I have the right as a citizen (obviously I feel I do) to raise such questions, not to implicate anybody, but simply to know the truth?

Then there is this session that the deputies asked for to discuss citizens' rights and the formation of political parties. Let me first examine the call for such a session. I will not question the timing of

such a move. For while one might argue that our deputies, the majority of whom were elected 17 years ago, should have thought of this call sometime earlier during their term, one might also argue that the country went through some difficult times, and such a move was difficult in the past.

At any rate, I thought that such a call represented by far the most important news item in Jordan that week, to say the least. The call by itself should have stirred a large debate, especially in our credible newspapers.

Not so. A call for a debate on citizens' most fundamental rights deserved only passing attention from our newspapers. There were no editorials before the event, no analysis, no suggestions as to what the deputies might discuss, and, more importantly, no demands for subjects that the deputies should tackle.

What was the problem, editors? Did you not think the subject deserved that much attention?

The session, at any rate, was finally held. Twenty-seven deputies (for those of you who did not catch it, that is a full 45 per cent of the parliamentary body) asked the government to consider giving more political rights to its citizens, including the formation of

political parties.

It is interesting here to note passingly that a subject as important as this is allocated one session to discuss, one fine session that just happens to be the last session of the present term.

Anyway, 45 per cent of the deputies propose something as serious as political rights without one single deputy introducing any draft law on the subject. Sure, speeches hailing citizens' rights are nice. I am not doubting the sincerity of those who delivered them. But I hope they have room for criticism from this one constituent who does not think they have done their homework. For, in the final analysis, a fiery speech is a speech nonetheless, incapable of changing any status-quo.

A draft law, on the other hand, discussed and passed by our legislative branch, clearly defining the limits within which our executive branch can operate, is to my knowledge of other parliamentary systems, standard procedure.

Very honestly, we are tired of talking about generalities. If deputies do not approve of certain actions of the government, it is their duty as elected representatives to introduce specific draft laws dealing with specific problems and

ensuring specific solutions.

On the other hand, we demand that our deputies research their complaints, be knowledgeable about the country's laws, and be ready to effectively argue their case.

The prime minister, in his reply to the deputies' demands, was seen as very forthcoming. It is indeed heartening to see that the government enjoys a good relationship with the parliament. It is an encouraging sign that the government is reaching out more for its people. But I am afraid being nice to one another is not the whole issue here. After all, whatever troubled the deputies' minds might have remained the same after that session.

There are serious issues at stake, and we should not fool ourselves into thinking these issues are solved simply because the parliamentary session was conducted in a professional, orderly and friendly manner.

Please, let someone correct me if I do not understand the constitution, but I always thought the legislative branch has the upper hand over the executive one. I mean, if the parliament opts for the formation of political parties, can't it pass a law to that effect? It seems to me that gov-

ernment's functions are to execute those laws enacted by the people through their representatives. Or am I wrong?

It so, would someone tell me what exactly is the function of our parliament?

Sometimes I think I am being too naive. Maybe if someone sits down and explains all this to me, things would make more sense.

But can you really blame me, or so many other citizens for our "ignorance" when the government does not tell us what is going on, when our papers refuse to discuss any subject of a sensitive nature, and when our own representatives either are kept or keep us in the dark?

If the government does not want us to listen to rumours, shouldn't it better inform us what is going on? Why didn't we know earlier that attacks on Jordanian embassies were carried out by Jordanian students? Don't we have the right to know? Without being too corny, Jordanians working for Jordan's welfare by far surpass those working against it. Don't these have the right to an input in the country's policies? How can I, in the absence of information, supposed to form an enlightened opinion about my own country? Or am I?

'Asians' worry Sydney

By Brian Timms
Reuters

SYDNEY — Australia is opening its doors to a growing number of Asian immigrants, stirring angry debate in a country that until a few years ago generally admitted only whites.

About a third of the 700,000 people who settle in Australia each year are Asians and their arrival has become a hot political issue, leading to rowdy scenes in parliament.

Although Asians comprise only two per cent of Australia's 15 million people their entry rate is getting closer to that of migrants from Britain and the rest of Europe, the traditional sources of settlers.

This is because an increasing number of Vietnamese already here are sponsoring the entry of close relatives under Australia's family reunion programme.

Parliamentary exchanges over the issue became so heated recently that Mr. Lewis Kent, a member of the ruling Labour Party, leaped over benches yelling "racists, racists" at the Liberal opposition, which wants more migrants from Europe.

Immigration has always been a delicate issue in Australia, founded 200 years ago by British and European settlers who adopted the "whites only" policy at the turn of the century.

There had been riots at the goldfields over thousands of Chinese who flooded into Australia to take advantage of the rich pickings.

The 1901 federal immigration restriction act controlled non-European immigration with an English language dictation test which Asians found difficult to pass.

In 1907, no Asian passed the test.

The pro-European policy persisted even after World War II. Then labour immigration minister Mr. Arthur Calwell suggested that Asians be deported.

Britons had to pay only £10 (\$16) for a subsidised five-week boat ride to a new life "down under".

The first reform of the white Australia policy did not come until 1964, when the government allowed people who were not fully European to settle in Australia.

There has been no racist element in official policy in recent years and political parties adopted a bi-partisan approach towards immigration.

Australia settled 90,000 people from South East Asia between 1975 and 1982, nearly all of them Vietnamese refugees and their relatives.

This has trimmed the total intake of all nationalities from 118,700 in the year to June 1982 to the anticipated 70,000 in the current annual period.

There have been rumblings of discontent from right-wing groups, such as the White Australia Movement, which hankers after the old days.

"Asians out" signs have been daubed on walls on campuses, particularly at the University of New South Wales, by groups claiming too many places go to Asians.

But on the whole the main argument in recent years has been about trimming the total intake, with Australians advising complaining immigrants, even Britons, to go home.

Talking
straight
Marwan

Muasher

Don't destroy Jordan's heritage

By Rev. Musa Adeli

MANY YEARS ago, when I was a young boy living in Fuhais, I went with my friends looking for birds eggs. We went to the nearby Khirbet Al Deir (Ruins of the Monastery) which is not far from the Hashemiyah Palace.

Among the ruins is a big building called by the people Al Iaser (The Palace). The building, its walls built of massive stones, afforded a spectacular view of the surrounding countryside.

My friend Mohanad and I scrambled over these ruins in order to enjoy the scenery. Michael, our other companion, had wandered off to the Roman wells, in his search for birds nests.

Suddenly we heard him cry out. He had found a jar in a well and had put his hand in it expecting to find a nest. He was bitten by a snake instead!!! We ran to him and took care of him.

In our anger at what the snake had done, we killed it destroying the jar at the same time. In our view the jar was a useless piece of rubble. Indeed in the view of the adult inhabitants of the area such things were of no value.

The local population viewed the huge and ancient foundation stones in the neighbourhood in such the same way and used them to build their modern houses.

What a catastrophe!!!

Growing up and studying at university, I began to appreciate the value of these things. Also as I began to travel abroad, I saw how other countries value and treasure their relics from by-gone days, some of them are of much less value than those of Jordan. For example, you will not find anywhere a marvellous place like Petra.

I noticed how the people and especially the guides in the museums and other places were very careful not to allow us to touch any thing.

When I began to teach religion and history, I tried to explain the importance of the ruins and antiquities to my students. These ancient things can give us much understanding of today. For example,

we can find valuable mosaic floors dating back to the second century when they for need part of a Byzantine church floor.

Such antiquities tell us a great deal about our history and heritage.

My students are generally very interested in these things. One student said to me one day that he thought it would be better to leave such ancient objects covered in the ground until the time when people will appreciate them.

I would like to call the attention of the reader to the following:

A- Again we have places such as Petra, Jerash, and Kerak, places that people from abroad travel long distances to visit. But how much do we, the people who live here appreciate them?

If the facilities of the sites were built up and improved, if competent guides and well documented books in Arabic were available, not only tourists would

go there but may be the people of our country would go and stay long enough to get some idea of the value of the place.

B- I was told an amusing though so new that I don't know. She visited Jerash with Jordanian friends. A teacher asked her to come over to a spot to show her something. She followed thinking it must be something ancient and inspiring.

When she arrived at the spot, the teacher said: "You see over there, That is where Fairouz stood when she sang at the last festival!" No one wishes to suggest that it was not a delightful entertainment which Fairouz provided, but it did seem strange that this was the only thing a native Jordanian person thought of as worthwhile to point out to a foreigner.

No mention was made of the ancient Roman road, rutted deeply with chariot wheels, a road

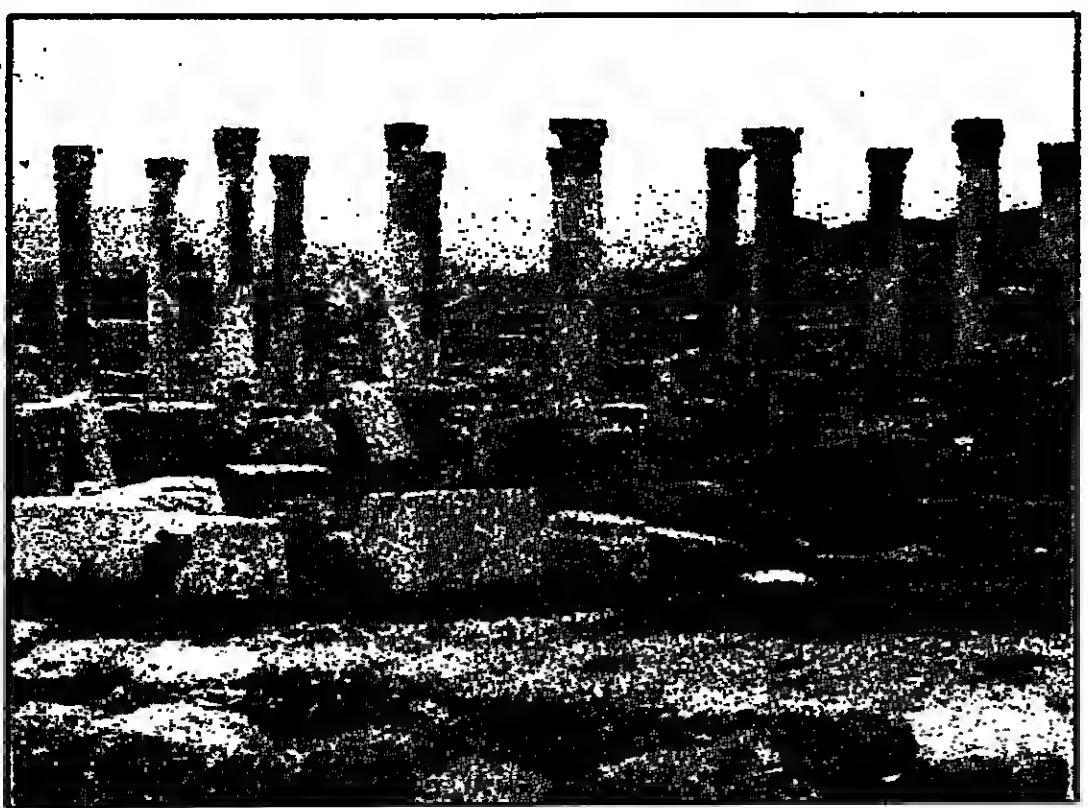
over which St. Paul must have travelled on his way from Jerusalem to Damascus with his letters of authority to arrest the Christians. magnificent columns, the well preserved amphitheatre etc...

Certainly it would seem a lot of education is still needed. In my opinion the ministry of education ought to undertake the task of helping students to understand the beauty and antiquity of their land.

C- Finally, I have a suggestion. Why not levy a tax on all people leaving the country for a holiday and use this money to restore these places and make them attractive.

Another suggestion would be to have slides and films made and rent them out to clubs and schools. This would serve a double purpose, providing both information and revenue.

JORDAN is your country, a beautiful one. Don't destroy its heritage.



The Roman ruins at Jerash — one of Jordan's historic attractions

China executes scores of people each month in anti-crime blitz

By Jeremy Cliff
Reuters

PEKING — China's anti-crime blitz is continuing unabated, with scores of people executed each month despite official statements that crime is on the wane.

According to official notices, at least 30 people were executed in Peking alone in April for crimes ranging from murder to rape, theft to making pornographic films.

The sentences are announced on posters outside courthouses and on public notice boards. A red tick at the lower left-hand corner indicates that the executions have been carried out.

The names of those killed, normally by a single shot in the back of the head, are underlined in red. In some cases photographs of those sentenced are displayed, together with details of their crimes.

The government has not given an overall figure for the number executed since a crackdown was launched last August after a government decision to fight crime with harsh punishment.

But foreign diplomats collating figures from around the country say it must be around 10,000. The launching of the blitz was followed by thousands of arrests in the major cities of Canton, Shanghai and Peking.

Mr. Zhu Mingshan, vice-president of China's supreme court, said the offensive was necessary because criminal activity had increased to the extent that it could endanger the state.

He told the official Peking Review that the death penalty was extended by the national assembly last September to cover theft and rape to counter an epidemic of these offences.

He said this had yielded quick results.

The crime rate in the last four

months of 1983 dropped by 44.7 per cent compared with the first eight months, he said.

China says its crime rate is lower than most Western countries, but this is not borne out in the official press.

The Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, reported in April that two rapist gangs led by the sons of high-ranking Communist Party officials terrorised a town in northeast China for four years before being put behind bars.

Others have been executed or given long prison terms for peddling pornography, armed robbery, running smuggling rackets, embezzling or taking part in gang warfare.

The crackdown began in Peking when 100,000 people gathered in a stadium last August to hear the mayor call for public order and pour scorn on 30 recently captured murderers and rapists. They were paraded before the crowd and then taken away and shot.

During the September session of the National People's Congress the death penalty was extended to cover 29 crimes. The time for appeals was cut from 10 to three days. Despite the wave of executions and arrests, there has been little international protest.

Peking ignored an appeal by the London-based human rights group Amnesty International last October for a halt to the mass executions, which it described as the biggest in the country since the early 1970s.

Amnesty said the increased use of the death penalty in China, which played host to a United Nations conference on juvenile crime last month, ran counter to U.N. resolutions urging reductions in the number of offences punishable by death.

A study of the death notices shows many of those executed are

young and unemployed. More than half of all crimes tried in China in 1983 were committed by youths and juvenile offenders.

Some typical death notices in the capital, signed by Peking's Judge Liu Yun Feng, indicate the type of crime now carrying the death penalty.

Some involve people like Zhu Xu Zheng, 23, a construction worker who broke into a girls' dormitory and used a steel pipe to kill a girl who had spurned him.

A 21-year-old Peking woman was sentenced to death for trafficking in young girls. She sold 12 girls for 4,700 yuan (\$2,350) and several were badly beaten and raped by four men working with her.

Western and Asian diplomats link the crime wave to rising living standards resulting from Premier Zhao Ziyang's liberalised economic policies.

China does not give unemployment figures, but foreign analysts say up to 20 million people are probably unemployed, many of them frustrated youths who take to crime because they have nothing better to do.

Looser economic policies also appear to have encouraged a get-rich-quick attitude by some.

The English-language China Daily newspaper quoted an official of the prosecutor general's office as saying at least 36,000 people were arrested in China over the past two years as part of a crackdown on business swindles.

He said China's judicial departments would now concentrate efforts on bigger and more complicated criminal cases this year.

China now encourages everyone to make money and raise their standard of living, but as expectations rise, so do frustrations as differences appear between the haves and have-nots.

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Platini scores hat-trick as France routs Belgium

NANTES, France (R) — Michel Platini, Europe's Footballer of the Year, notched a hat-trick to propel France to a 5-0 victory over Belgium and an almost certain place in the semifinals of the European Soccer Championship here Saturday.

Platini, who equalled the French scoring record of Just Fontaine in the 1-0 defeat of Denmark four days ago, took the tally to 30 with strikes in the third, 74th and 88th minutes. Alain Giresse and Luis Fernandez scored the others in the first half.

After Platini's opening salvo, France dominated the bewildered Belgians with almost arrogant ease to go top of Group One.

Secure in defence and powerful in midfield where Platini and Jean Tigana repeatedly sliced through to set up scoring chances, France were superior in every department.

Platini, celebrating his 50th appearance for France, opened the goal spree when he raced through a static Belgian defence to score from a rebound after Patrick Battiston had hit the bar.

Half an hour later Giresse fired home from a Tigana pass, and two minutes from the interval it was Giresse who laid on a perfect cross for Fernandez to head past helpless Belgian keeper Jean-Marie Pfaff.

The massacre in the bright sunshine before a capacity crowd continued in the second half as the shaken Belgian defence reeled before dazzling French attacks.

The inevitable fourth goal came when Pfaff brought down Didier Six in the box and Platini deceived

the Belgian keeper from the penalty spot.

It was only fitting that the French skipper should complete the rout by completing his hat-trick two minutes from the end with a powerful header from a Giresse free-kick.

By contrast the Belgians never settled and rarely threatened the compact French defence.

Belgium, who had opened their campaign with an impressive 2-0 win over Yugoslavia, will need to

beat a strong Danish side in Strasbourg next Tuesday to have any hope of reaching the semifinals.

French manager Michel Hidalgo refused to revel in his side's performance. "We had a very good start and everything went right for us today. But you have to take every game as it comes," he said.

"We know there are tough matches ahead and you can always be surprised by the quality of the opposition. I am no more optimistic than before. The important thing now is to keep playing the way we did today."

Belgian manager Guy Thys implicitly criticised his players for lack of effort, saying they would have to draw important lessons from their defeat — especially concerning their mental approach.

England collapses against Windies

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — The West Indian pace attack, first with the bat and then with the ball, heaped more humiliation on England in the first cricket test at Edgbaston here Saturday.

Eldine Baptiste and Michael Holding both hit test best scores in adding a record 150 for the ninth wicket as the touring team amassed 606 — a first innings lead of 415.

Then it was Joel Garner's turn. He whipped out the first three England batsmen with only 37 on the board and the battle-shocked home side ended the third day hopelessly placed at 112 for four.

The one crumb of comfort for England was the spirited fifth wicket

stand between stand-in opener Paul Downton and Ian Botham, top scorer in the first innings, which has so far raised 47 runs.

West Indies, resuming Saturday morning at 421 for seven, slaughtered England's innocuous bowling during the first two-hour session which produced 157 runs.

Most of the action came from Baptiste, who made 87 not out, and Holding, who plundered 69. Their entertaining partnership broke the previous West Indies test best for the ninth wicket of 122 compiled by Jackie Hendricks, manager of the present side, and David Holford against Australia in the 1968-69 series.

Hearns demolishes Duran in 2nd round to retain title

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (R) — Thomas Hearns fulfilled his pre-fight prediction Friday night when he battered Panama's Roberto Duran to defeat in the second round to retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) super welterweight title.

After flooring the 33-year-old Panamanian twice in the first round of their scheduled 12-round contest, the 25-year-old "Detroit hit man" dropped him with a tremendous right to the side of the head.

Helpless and bleeding from a cut along his left eye, Duran lay face down on the canvas and referee Carlos Padilla signalled it was all over 67 seconds into the round.

Hearns hammered Duran with about 18 unanswered punches before connecting with what he said was probably the hardest right he had thrown during his eight-year professional career.

Duran, who had been stopped only once before — when he quit against Sugar Ray Leonard in the eighth round of their second fight — withstood the onslaught until Hearns connected with his devastating right.

It was Hearns' 39th victory against one defeat — a 14th round loss to Leonard on September 16, 1981. And it virtually assured him of a tilt at Marvin Hagler's undisputed middleweight title.

For Duran, the defeat was probably the last chapter in a glorious 17-year professional career during which he won three titles and 76 of 82 fights.

Hearns caught Duran with a wicked right to the head that sent him to the canvas on his side after

the first two minutes of the fight.

Duran got up at the count of six, wobbly and dazed. Seconds later, Hearns connected with a left hook that floored the Panamanian a second time. But again Duran, groggy and rubber-legged, struggled to his feet at the count of five.

At the bell, a dazed Duran reeled to a neutral corner before his handlers led him to his own corner.

Hearns opened up the cut around Duran's left eye with his first salvo.

At the bell for the start of the second round, Hearns raced across the ring and quickly drove Duran into the ropes with a fusillade of rapid-fire combinations. Blood flowed again from around Duran's left eye.

The Panamanian managed to escape from the ropes. But Hearns, powering away with both hands, drove him back with a

string of wicked combinations.

Hearns landed about 15 unanswered punches but Duran absorbed the punishment and even tried to fight back.

Scoring his first knockout in two years, Hearns piled in 17 more punches. Duran withstood them as well as even managed to fling a wild left hook that grazed the champion's shoulder.

But that was the Panamanian's last gasp. Seconds later, Hearns smashed a crunching right into the side of his head and he crashed to the canvas.

Duran lay on the floor, prostrate and helpless. Referee Padilla, a Filipino who has officiated at scores of title fights, signalled an end to the one-sided bout.

As he was helped to his corner by his seconds, Duran, battered and bloodied, turned to his manager, Luis Spada, and asked: "What did I do wrong?"

McEnroe defeats Connors

LONDON (R) — John McEnroe, continuing to show the form that will make him the Wimbledon favourite later this month, blitzed American arch-rival Jimmy Connors 6-2, 6-2 to reach the final of the London Grass Court Tennis Championship at Queen's Club here Saturday.

McEnroe, who won this tournament in 1979, 1980 and 1981, will try to take it for a fourth time in the final Sunday against unseeded compatriot Leif Shiras. Shiras, who upset French Open champion Ivan Lendl in the opening round, continued to blast his way through the event by eliminating

fellow-American Rod Harmon 6-3, 6-4 in the other semifinal Saturday.

Connors has won this tournament for the last two years, beating McEnroe in both finals. But McEnroe took him apart Saturday with service breaks in the second and eighth games of each set. Connors could find no answer to the speed and incisiveness of McEnroe who served eight aces.

When his first service was not on the mark, his second delivery still put a lot of pressure on Connors, keeping him on the defensive.

Prost shatters record in Canadian race practice

MONTREAL (R) — Alain Prost of France, leading the race for the world driving crown, set a blistering pace in first timed practice Friday for Sunday's Canadian Grand Prix with a record lap of 183.586 kilometres (114.975 miles) an hour.

Prost, with three victories already this year in his McLaren, completed the 4.41 kilometre (2.74 mile) circuit in one minute 26.477 seconds, as cool dry weather led to fast times.

The old practice record of one minute 27.328 seconds, or 181.787 kph, was set in 1980 by Nelson Piquet of Brazil.

Also shattering the old mark were Italy's Elio de Angelis in a Lotus with the second fastest time of 1:27.139, or 182.191 kph, followed by Piquet, the 1983 world driving champion, who has yet to score any championship points this season.

Piquet, who races for Brabham, was Friday's third fastest driver in 1:27.154 seconds, or 182.160 kph.

"Every year we get more power," Prost said when asked to explain Friday's record times.

He added: "It is more important to get the pole position in Montreal" than at other Grand Prix circuits, where passing is easier.

With the new controversial rule reducing Formula One cars' fuel reservoir to 220 litres from 250 litres, Prost said he expects fuel consumption will be a critical factor in Sunday's Grand Prix race. "Montreal is a difficult track for atmospheric conditions. Sunday will be difficult for sure — it will be difficult to get good fuel consumption," Prost said.

So far this year, several drivers have been forced to drop out races after running out of fuel.

Meanwhile, French driver Patrick Tambay, the Renault driver who stands eighth in the 1984 championship battle, said he probably won't race Sunday because of mechanical problems.

"I cannot use the clutch properly...I can drive, but not well enough to do the job properly, so there is not much point in running like that," Tambay, who did not drive Friday, said.

Tambay broke his leg in the Monaco race 11 days ago.

Amsterdam gets go-ahead for 1992 Olympics bid

THE HAGUE (R) — The Dutch government has agreed that Amsterdam can formally bid to hold the 1992 Olympics, Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers said.

Speaking after the weekly cabinet meeting Friday night, Mr. Lubbers said the government had agreed to a request from the Amsterdam authorities for a guarantee of 250 million guilders (\$83 million) to meet any shortfall.

In April the Netherlands Olympic Committee said it favoured Amsterdam, who hosted the 1928 games, over Rotterdam as the Dutch candidate after both cities had presented proposals.

The other cities wanting to host the 1992 games are Barcelona, Brisbane, New Delhi, Paris and Stockholm.

Two special commissions are to be set up to study the problems

involved and the cabinet will take a final decision in August next year on the candidacy bid after receiving their reports.

Amsterdam mayor Ed Van Thijn said the city would go all out to stage the Olympics. "We will present our candidacy on July 23 during the Olympic Games in Los Angeles," he said.

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For beginner horses
Distance: 1,400 metres.
Time: 1:50 minutes

1ST: HORSE
Frajih
2ND: Amal
3RD: El Anoud

OWNER
Mohammad Ahmad
Safel El Fatez
Fahed Mitlik

SECOND RACE

For beginner horses
Distance: 1,400 metres
Time: 1:48 minutes

1ST: HORSE
Fayzih
2ND: Ghazal
3RD: Fawar

OWNER
A/Ellatif El Hadid
Bahjat Fanous
Bahjat Fanous

THIRD RACE

For beginner horses
Distance: 1,600 metres
Time: 2:2 minutes

1ST: HORSE
El Hmaid
2ND: El Farazdak
3RD: Babir

OWNER
H.H. Late Sharif
Naser Stables
Al Rihad Stables
Ghalib Haddadin

FOURTH RACE

For beginner horses
Distance: 1,400 metres
Time: 1:47 minutes

1ST: HORSE
Nayfah
2ND: Abeer
3RD: Saif El Windih

OWNER
Ghalib Haddadin
Bahjat Fanous
A/Ellatif El Hadid

FIFTH RACE

For third class horses
Distance: 1,400 metres
Time: 1:41 minutes

1ST: HORSE
Tair El Ababil
2ND: Wisam
3RD: Apollo

OWNER
H.H. Late Sharif
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- The last date for submission of offers for microwave systems remains the same as announced i.e. 24th July, 1984.
- The Answers to questionnaire. From those who bought the tender documents and did not attend the meeting on 12th and 13th June, 1984 could collect the same from secretary Tender Committee Telcommunication Corporation.
- Please note that the bid-bond for Saudi Arabia is 5% (not 1%).
- The last date for submission of tender for coaxial system is extended to 25th August, 1984.

Eng. Moh'd Shahid Ismail
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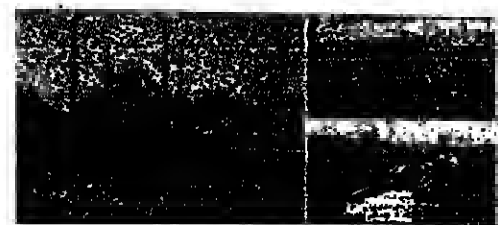
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سكنى مع الاطفال

Nicaraguan troops kill 70 rebels in latest offensive

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan troops have killed 70 U.S.-backed, anti-government rebels and wounded another 130 guerrillas in a major offensive near the southern border, Deputy Defence Minister Leopoldo Rivas said Friday.

Mr. Rivas said seven government soldiers died in the offensive, dubbed "Operation Sovereignty". Another 33 soldiers were wounded in the fighting, he added.

Earlier Friday, a statement from the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) said rebels had inflicted 300 government casualties during the fighting.

Nicaraguan troops last week detected about 500 ARDE rebels in the Rio San Juan area near the Costa Rican border and fired heavy artillery to wear down and

defeat the force, Mr. Rivas said. Nicaraguan troops captured a quantity of U.S.-supplied arms during the operation, Mr. Rivas said. He added that some of the rebels were identified as Puerto Ricans.

In Costa Rica, officials announced Friday the government had set up medical posts close to the border to deal with an expected influx of rebels and refugees fleeing the drive.

More than 100 ARDE rebels have fled from Nicaragua since the offensive began and Costa Rican officials said they expected some

1,000 Nicaraguan refugees would also be driven across the border. The guerrillas would be disarmed and interned, the officials said. Costa Rica, fearing a heavy influx of rebels could endanger the country's security, would approach outside countries to accept the rebels as refugees, they added.

Mr. Rivas repeated a government claim made earlier in the week that the rebels had fired mortars from positions in Costa Rican territory.

Costa Rica, which has declared itself neutral in regional conflicts, has denied the rebels used its territory to launch the attack.

An ARDE spokesman said the guerrillas were low on ammunition and supplies. Their military leader, Eden Pastora, is recuperating in Venezuela from a bomb blast at a May 30 press conference.

Salvadoran army attacks rebels

SAN SALVADOR. El Salvador (AP) — Some 3,000 government troops spearheaded by a U.S.-trained battalion have launched a major attack on leftist guerrillas in their strongholds in Morazan province, a high ranking military officer said Friday.

The officer, who asked anonymity for security reasons, said the anti-rebel sweep began late Thursday with government troops crossing the Torola River 193 kilometres north east of the capital, and meeting little resistance.

Army patrols Friday entered the towns of Torola and Mecanguera just north of the river, meeting virtually no resistance. "I

expect they'll put up a little fight and fade away," the officer said but refused to give other immediate details.

One rebel tactic in the civil war is to force the army to mobilise as many troops as possible, put up a minimum of resistance, fade away, and hit targets elsewhere unexpectedly.

The officer said the operation, besides being an anti-rebel sweep, aims to establish a permanent government presence in Morazan province north of the Torola River, a rugged area where the rebels have maintained big strongholds for many years.

The 1,200-man rapid deployment battalion has been specially trained in this kind of anti-guerrilla operation by U.S. army special forces trainers.

Another 3,000 soldiers have been deployed on a similar sweep for the past four days in northern Cabanas province. Four government soldiers were wounded in a clash Thursday near the village of La Mesa, 70 kilometres northeast of the capital, a military source there said.

Otherwise, the source, who similarly asked anonymity, said Friday the troops in Cabanas encountered almost no resistance.

Meese subpoenaed as trial witness

LOS ANGELES (R) — Presidential Counselor Edwin Meese has been subpoenaed to give evidence at the trial of Marvin Pancost, accused of murdering the mistress of multi-millionaire Alfred Bloomingdale, Mr. Pancost's lawyer said Friday night.

"We feel Mr. Meese may have some relevance to the case," lawyer Arthur Barends told reporters. Mr. Bloomingdale was a close friend and political confidante of President Reagan.

Mr. Pancost, 34, a former clerk, is accused of murdering ex-model Vicki Morgan, who sued

Mr. Bloomingdale and his wife Betsy in 1982, claiming Mr. Bloomingdale had promised to support her for life after a 12-year affair.

Mr. Bloomingdale died soon after Ms. Morgan filed her suit and court rejected her claim to \$10 million.

A lawyer, Robert Steinberg, later claimed he had seen sex films involving Ms. Morgan, Mr. Bloomingdale and others, including two officials of ambassadorial rank and a U.S. congressman. Mr. Steinberg subsequently reported the films had been stolen.

Mr. Barends said the subpoena, issued in Washington, ordered Mr. Meese to be ready to appear as a witness at Mr. Pancost's trial in Los Angeles at the end of next week.

A witness, Sharon Porto, told the court this week Mr. Morgan's mother, British-born Connie Laney, had told her Ms. Morgan and a ghost writer, Gordon Basich, were compiling a book, to be called Alfred's Mistress, when Ms. Morgan was murdered.

Ms. Porto said Mrs. Laney told her the book would have named senior government officials.



CHALLENGER IN ACTION: The British army's new £1 million (\$1.4 million) Challenger tank is put through its paces during a demonstration at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Bovington Thursday. A development of the Chieftain, the tank is equipped with lightweight Chobham armour and a 120 mm gun (AP wirephoto)

Indian security forces brace for Sikh protests

CHANDIGARH (R) — Security forces were on standby in the Punjab capital Saturday in preparation for Sikh protests after the Golden Temple battle in which hundreds were killed at the Sikh religion's holiest shrine.

Police sources said the Sikh Akali Dal Party was planning a big protest in Chandigarh to be followed by a day of prayer Sunday in other cities throughout India.

Throughout the troubled state, stunned by last week's fighting in Amritsar, curfews and restrictions on movement were relaxed and life was slowly returning to normal.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had sealed off the Punjab when she sent in the army to try to end nearly six months of attacks by Sikh extremists and the threat they and their demands posed to India's unity.

Indian government intelligence sources said millions of dollars worth of heroin and other illegal narcotics had been found in the precincts of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, refuge for the extremists.

Although devout Sikhs forbid the taking of drugs, including tobacco and alcohol, the haul was to have been used to buy weapons for the extremists' attempt to set up a separate Sikh state in the Punjab, the sources, quoted by the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency, said.

The sources said the drugs came from Pakistan's north west frontier province beside Afghanistan, both major world opium producing regions.

India has charged Pakistan with aiding the Sikh separatists. The government in Islamabad has denied this.

The drugs haul was found in rooms once used by followers of extremist leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who died of wounds in the bitter hand-to-hand fighting at the temple.

PTI said that in addition, gold, precious gems and more than \$300,000 in cash had also been recovered from wells and hiding places in the temple complex.

Lt. Gen. K.S. Brar who led the assault on the shrine told reporters in Amritsar that although the backbone of the Sikh separatist movement had been broken, it would take some time to eliminate it completely.

Military sources told Reuters that soldiers were sealing off and searching some Punjab villages for hidden arms caches and extremists on the run who had escaped earlier army dragnets.

Informed sources in the Punjab capital said the government was seeking ways of preventing moderate Sikhs from joining the extremists' cause out of anger over the army's move into the shrine complex and the heavy casualties that followed.

Argentine prisoners release 14 hostages

BUENOS AIRES (R) — More than 300 prisoners Friday freed 14 guards they took hostage after a riot Thursday in an Argentine provincial jail, federal prison authorities said.

The guards, held for over 24 hours, were released after authorities in Buenos Aires threatened to order police and prison guards to raid the jail.

Rioting began at the prison in San Nicolas, 240 kilometres northwest of here Thursday when the inmates surprised 15 guards, taking them hostage. One guard was later released when the prisoners were told he had heart problems.

Armenian sentenced to life for killing Turkish envoy

LOS ANGELES, California (Agencies) — Hampig Sassounian was sentenced Friday to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the street corner assassination of Turkish Consul General Kemal Arkan here more than two years ago.

Mr. Sassounian, a 21-year-old Armenian immigrant, was convicted of the slaying Jan. 4 by a jury of eight women and four men that deliberated more than 12 days.

Although jurors ruled Mr. Arkan was killed because of his nationality — making death in the gas chamber one of the sentencing options — they recommended life without parole to superior court Judge Henry Nelson.

As a result, Judge Nelson could impose no stronger sentence than that. He could have reduced it.

Mr. Arkan was en route to the Turkish consulate in Beverly Hills Jan. 28, 1982, when he was struck by bullets fired through the window of his car while it was stopped at a street corner on Wilshire Boulevard.

Witnesses in the shooting here said two men rushed the car. Sassounian was traced through the get-away car's licence plate.

Authorities have been unable to locate a second man alleged to have been involved, Krikor Saliba, 22.

After the shooting, several news agencies were contacted by people identifying themselves as "members of the Justice Committee of the Armenian Genocide and claiming responsibility for the assassination."

Mr. Sassounian's attorney, Paul Geragos, said he would appeal on behalf of his client.

"He didn't do it for personal gain or glory," Mr. Geragos said. "If he did this crime, he was doing it for his people."

Deputy District Attorney (prosecutor) Luel Rubin said Mr. Sassounian took part in the assassination in retribution for what he believed was the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians at the hand of the Turks in 1915. Successive Turkish governments have denied the allegation.

U.S. expected to press for end to Sri Lankan conflict

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Junius Jayewardene of Sri Lanka can expect during a state visit here next week to be pressed by President Ronald Reagan and other U.S. officials to solve the bitter ethnic conflict that exploded in bloody violence in his tiny island republic less than a year ago, and left about 400 people dead and millions of dollars worth of damage.

"We intend to comment President Jayewardene for his efforts thus far and to tell him that it is most urgent that a solution be found," a senior State Department official told reporters Friday, on the eve of Mr. Jayewardene's arrival in the U.S.

The official, who cannot be identified by name under news briefing rules, also voiced U.S. opposition to the campaign of the island's Tamil minority to separate from the Sinhalese majority to form an independent country.

Mr. Reagan is to give a White House welcome to the 77-year-old Jayewardene on Monday, and the Sri Lankan leader will spend the next two days meeting with administration officials and congressional leaders.

Mr. Jayewardene also has scheduled visits to New Mexico, Niagara Falls, and New York City.

During Mr. Jayewardene's visit the United States and Sri Lanka plan to sign an agreement on scientific and technical co-operation.

Sri Lanka, a small island off the coast of India, broke into the news when Tamil separatist terrorists ambushed and killed 13 government soldiers in the predominantly Tamil northern province last July, setting off country-wide rioting by the dominant Sinhalese in which the death toll neared 400.

Tamil terrorists last month abducted and held for five days an American couple working in Sri Lanka, demanding release of 20 political prisoners and \$2 million ransom. The demands were not met and Stanley and Mary Allen were freed unhurt.

COLUMN

U.S. congressman sentenced to jail

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Congressman George Hansen was sentenced Friday to 15 months imprisonment and a \$40,000 fine for filing false financial disclosure forms with Congress. Lawyers for Mr. Hansen, 53, a Republican from Idaho, said they would lodge an appeal. Mr. Hansen was found guilty on four charges of violating the 1975 ethics in government act by failing to report \$333,978 in loans and other transactions. Some of the charges concerned the sale of silver contracts involving Texas billionaire Nelson Bunker Hunt. The House of Representatives Ethics Committee said it would hold a disciplinary hearing on June 20 to consider its own punishment for Hansen, who won re-election for an eighth term in Congress in May.

Peasants use labour-saving computer

PEKING (R) — Peasants in a village in northeast China are using a micro-computer to measure the flow of water to their paddy fields, the New China News Agency said Saturday. Since the computer was installed this month in the village just outside Shenyang, two men in a control room operate 19 electric well pumps, doing work that 20 people did in the past, the report said.

Youths attack police station

LONDON (R) — Police made 17 arrests early Saturday when 200 youths rampaged through a town in Yorkshire, one of the most areas supporting a three-month-old strike in Britain's steel industry. The youths threw stones at the police station in Maltby and smashed shop windows in the town, police said. Townspeople spoke of ill-feeling over police use of road blocks to prevent strikers travelling to picket coal shippers or miners still working in other areas.

Roosevelt's secretary dies

WASHINGTON (AP) — Grace G. Tully, personal secretary to the late U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, died Friday of cancer at George Washington University Hospital. She was 83. Miss Tully, a native of Bayonne, New Jersey, served Mr. Roosevelt both while he was governor of New York State from 1929 to 1933 and during his 12 years in the White House. After Mr. Roosevelt's death in 1945, the final year of World War II, Miss Tully joined the staff of the FDR Foundation. In 1950 she went to work for the Senate Democratic Party Policy Committee, remaining there until her retirement in 1965. Author of the memoir FDR, Miss Tully is survived by a sister and niece.

Walesa will never leave Poland

NEW YORK (AP) — Come what may, solidarity leader Lech Walesa and his family will never leave Poland, his wife says in a magazine interview. "We belong here," declared Danuta Walesa in the interview in the July issue of Ladies' Home Journal. "How could we abandon our country and the people who depend on Lech's leadership? And nothing would please the government better than to see all nine of us emigrate. Getting rid of Lech would indeed solve many problems for them. Oh, no, the Walesas are definitely staying." Mrs. Walesa, 35, recalled the night in December 1981 when her husband was arrested and imprisoned. Eight months pregnant at the time, she said, "I could not have carried on without faith. But I had moments when I was terrified to be alone and to have to live without (Lech) at my side." She told her interviewer at the apartment she shares with her husband and seven children on the outskirts of Gdansk that her fear for the safety of her husband and family still persists, but added: "I am very, very busy, so I don't have much time to brood over things. The only times I worry are when I come up against people's ill will or intent to do mischief. I find that frightening. I worry about the consequences it might have for all nine of us." Mrs. Walesa said her husband suffers from ulcers and ought to take it easy. But she adds that he is "a difficult patient and never follows doctors' orders."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠A1076 ♠Q9852 ♦KJ72
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A. — You were not invited in to this auction — had partner wanted to bear about your spades or diamonds, he could have doubled. Partner must have a good suit for his vulnerable two-level overcall, and you have useful values for him. Pass, and pass again even if the opponents double.

Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J6 ♠AQ954 ♦AKJ3 ♠98
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?
A. — Don't give up yet on slam. Your side could still have a 4-4 diamond fit, and if a suitable trump fit is located, you should have enough to contract for 12 tricks. Test the waters by bidding four diamonds, and see how partner reacts. If he simply signs off at four hearts or four no trump, pass — you have done your bit.

Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q105 ♠AQ3 ♦A98 ♠K765
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A. — Up to now, you have shown nothing but a minimum balanced opening with a club suit. In fact, you have a maximum for your bidding to this point, and your double fit improves the value of your hand. Take a jump preference to three spades. Since your one no trump rebid has limited your hand to 15 points, partner cannot expect you to have

more than you actually hold.

Q.4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQJ103 ♠K954 ♦8 ♠765
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A. — Your hand has slam possibilities, but you have no convenient way to bid it. A jump to five hearts is a possibility, but partner might not realize that you have the ace of spades and extreme diamond shortness. Perhaps the safest approach is to rebid three spades now, with the intention of bidding hearts over game at your next turn. That will highlight the quality of your spades and put partner in a better position to make the right decision.

Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠6 ♠A105 ♦AJ984 ♠K852
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A. — You are not strong enough to show a new suit at the three-level, and certainly you don't want to rebid a mediocre five-card suit when you have good three-card support for partner. Raise to three hearts.

Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠6 ♠A105 ♦AQ984 ♠K852
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A. — This hand is considerably stronger than the previous example, and you cannot rule out slam possibilities. You are strong enough to show your second suit at the three-level before raising partner's suit — bid three clubs.

Uruguay opposition leader sails home

MONTEVIDEO (R) — Opposition leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate sailed home from exile Saturday as Uruguay's military government put part of the capital under a virtual state of siege in a bid to prevent a massive welcoming rally.

Armoured cars rumbled through the streets of Montevideo, and troops took up positions on rooftops in the port area.

Radio stations broadcast repeated warnings for people to stay away from the rally, called by the opposition Blanco Party which has chosen Mr. Ferreira Aldunate as its candidate for presidential elections in November.

Doctors said emergency wards had been cleared to receive casualties.

"If somebody wished for proof of the irrationality of this regime

as well as its weakness — the state of agony which it is in — they would only need to observe this," Mr. Ferreira Aldunate said as he left Buenos Aires to cross the River Plate on a boat packed with journalists and supporters.

The 65-year-old politician, travelling with his wife, children and grandchildren, faces immediate arrest when he steps foot on his home soil, 11 years after fleeing into exile.

The government has said it will only allow the elections if the military has a permanent say on security matters, and it has banned Mr. Ferreira Aldunate from taking part.

It warned Friday that foreign agitators were planning to infiltrate the rally to welcome the returning politician. It said demonstrators would be liable to punishment.

Mr. Ferreira Aldunate alleged before his departure that troops were digging trenches and positioning anti-aircraft guns.

"All that because a family is going to Montevideo," he said.

The Blanco Party leader won the most votes in Uruguay's last elections 13 years ago, but his Colorado Party rival was elected with the support of other candidates.

When the military seized power two years later, Mr. Ferreira Aldunate was accused of links with the now-defunct Tupamaro Guerrilla group and fled the country.

All three legal political parties have rejected the government's demands on security, and plans for the elections are deadlocked.

Democrats close ranks behind Mondale as Hart drive falters

By David Nagy
Reuter

WASHINGTON — While Walter Mondale loafs in the sun and ponders choices for a running mate, his rival Gary Hart seems to be getting nowhere in a dogged quest to keep the Democratic presidential nomination race going.

With one month to go before the opposition party opens its nominating convention on July 16, Reuters asked Sen. Hart aides, how the Colorado senator had fared in his drive to woo delegates while his rival took a seaside holiday.

One uncommitted delegate has gone to Sen. Hart since the primary elections ended on June 5, Hart aide Michael Levy said.

A few more "uncommitteds," out of a possible pool of more than 700, have given informal indications they prefer Sen. Hart.

No one has yet defected from Mr. Mondale's apparently insurmountable majority of nearly 2,000 convention delegates.

For all Sen. Hart's claims that he would be more "electable" against President Reagan, his situation seemed well summed up by House of Representatives Speaker Thomas O'Neill at a recent meeting.

The old party leader threw an arm around Sen. Hart's shoulder and said, "You'll make a great president, but not this year."

The apparent deprecation of Sen. Hart's nomination challenge,

and the low-keyed way he is conducting himself, have raised hopes in party circles that a nasty convention struggle may yet be averted and that the party is pulling itself together after a bitter primary campaign.

"Hart is showing some class and dignity in the way he's prospecting for delegates," said one veteran Democratic Party insider, who noted that the senator has pledged not to divide the party and has ceased all attacks on Mr. Mondale.

"He's resisted the sore losers who wanted him to scorch the earth of the Democratic Party."

As a result, party professionals are now talking privately but with increasing optimism of prospects that Sen. Hart's quest may wind down gently over the next month.

They are hoping Sen. Hart, while pressing for policy items in the 1984 campaign platform, will drop a threatened challenge against Mr. Mondale delegates at credential meetings on rules and credentials.

They then hope that, at the convention, Sen. Hart will have his name put in nomination, make a rousing speech in the limelight and bow out in favour of Mr. Mondale and unity as balloons cascade down. Democrats embrace and bands play "happy days are here again."

Implicit in such a rosy scenario is that Sen. Hart will talk and act as though the race is still on until the very end. That is what he and all

his campaign aides are doing. He makes 20 or more phone calls to fence-sitting convention delegates each day, reminding them that he won more primaries — albeit mostly smaller ones — than Mr. Mondale and arguing that the party needs a new generation of leaders.

Like the former Vice President Mondale, Sen. Hart hit the campaign trail again this weekend to Texas and California, where party leaders were formally selecting the last few convention delegates.

"We want to go to the convention with as many delegates as we can," said Chief Campaign Spokesman Kathy Bushkin. "You never know what may happen there."

NEWS ANALYSIS

"We're in this for the nomination," said Debbie Graham, another Hart aide. "We still believe we're going to win."

While Mr. Mondale will begin interviewing potential vice-presidential running mates in a few days, Sen. Hart has no such plans. "I don't think we're close to that yet," said Ms. Graham.

She said the two rivals also had a cordial telephone chat on Mr. Mondale's initiative a few days ago, have named top-level aides to continue liaison and plan to meet soon.

Despite Sen. Hart's disclaimers of interest in the vice presidency,

talk of a Hart-Mondale "dream ticket" is reviving.

One well-informed Democratic source told Reuters that Sen. Hart advisers themselves have been sounding out Mr. Mondale aides and key party leaders on that very prospect.

Sen. Hart Spokesman Graham denied any such effort was under way.

In any case, the signs of reconciliation have led some analysts to conclude that the main threat to Democratic unity now comes not from Sen. Hart but from black leader Jesse Jackson.

Rev. Jackson, who won two primaries and an enormous following of black voters, alternates between vows of loyalty and implied threats that he may sit out the general election unless there is sweeping reform of party rules which he considers discriminatory.

"The Democratic Party will need all of its voters to win in November," he said recently. "People locked out of the game July 15 (when the convention starts) will not be interested in coming in on July 20 when it (convention) is over."

Democratic congressional leaders took a step towards compromise a few days ago by naming a committee to investigate Rev. Jackson's complaints that his popular primary vote far exceeded the handful of convention delegates

that he won.

Rev. Jackson was also expected to lay his reform demands before the convention's platform-writing committee, which starts work on Monday, and the rules and credentials committees meeting later.

Democratic officials see little or no hope of satisfying him before convention time. The likely compromise is agreement to appoint another commission to revise party rules for the future.

"He needs a victory," said one high-ranking party official. "Maybe it's a Jackson commission." He needs something to take to black people and say, "I have played ball and I have won."

Mr. Mondale is supervising the Jackson situation from behind the scenes, having appointed Campaign Manager Bob Beckel as his liaison with the Jackson camp.

But Mr. Mondale's immediate priority, however, is starting the vice presidential talent search.

Looking tanned and relaxed after 10 days of tennis and sunbathing at a New York seaside resort, on Friday Mr. Mondale went to his North Oaks, Minnesota, home to begin interviewing prospects this week.

He starts with Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen and Diane Feinstein, mayor of San Francisco, site of next month's Democratic convention.